

# **A CRITICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE REGULATIONS FOR PETROLEUM EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION (THE “FRACKING REGULATIONS”)**

**Jan Glazewski<sup>1</sup>**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The paper provides an overview of the legal framework pertinent to the proposed Shale Gas Extraction (SGE) enterprise in the Karoo. It does so with specific reference to relevant legislation but specifically to the heart of the matter namely the Regulations for Petroleum Exploration and Production (the “Fracking regulations”) published under the under the Mineral and Petroleum Resources development Act,2002 (MPRDA) in June 2015. The paper examines the regulation with a view to critically assessing whether South Africa has the necessary capacity, monitoring, and enforcement structure in place to ensure the effective application of the Regulations. In so doing it makes some suggestions as to the way forward to ensure the effective governance of the shale gas enterprise in the Karoo.