



## **INDEPENDENT ASSURANCE STATEMENT TOTAL WATER WITHDRAWAL**

To: The Stakeholders of Barrick Gold Corporation

Apex Companies, LLC (Apex) was engaged to conduct an independent assurance of the total water withdrawal reported by Barrick Gold Corporation (Barrick) for Barrick operations during the calendar year 2023. This assurance statement applies to the related information included within the scope of work described below.

The determination of the water withdrawal is the sole responsibility of Barrick. Barrick is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the water withdrawal in accordance with the criteria. Apex's sole responsibility was to provide independent assurance on the accuracy of the water withdrawal reported, and on the underlying systems and processes used to collect, analyze, and review the information. Apex is responsible for expressing an opinion on the water withdrawal statement based on the assurance.

### **Boundaries of the reporting company Water Withdrawal covered by the Assurance:**

- Operational Control
- Worldwide Mining Sites operated by Barrick in 2023

### **Water Withdrawal Reported:**

- Total Water Withdrawal: 170,996 Megaliters

Data and information supporting the reported total water withdrawal were in most cases historical in nature but in some cases were estimated rather than historical in nature.

### **Period covered by Water Withdrawal Assurance**

- January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023

### **Criteria against which assurance was conducted:**

- GRI Standards Sustainability Reporting Guidelines
- International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) Water Accounting Framework
- CDP Guidance for Companies, for Corporate Reporting on Water on Behalf of Investors and Supply Chain Members (Water Withdrawal)

### **Reference Standard:**

- Apex's standard procedures and guidelines for external Assurance of Sustainability Reports and International Standard on Assurance Engagements (ISAE) 3000 Revised, Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information (effective for assurance reports dated on or after Dec. 15, 2015), issued by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

### **Level of Assurance:**

- Reasonable
- Materiality Threshold:  $\pm 5\%$

### **Assurance Methodology:**

- Interviews with relevant personnel of Barrick;
- Visit to the Veladero Mine in Argentina and associated data review;

- Visit to the Lumwana Mine in Zambia and associated data review;
- Review of documentary evidence produced by Barrick;
- Review of Barrick data and information systems and methodology for collection, aggregation, analysis, and review of information used to determine water withdrawal; and
- Audit of samples of data from Barrick Operations used to determine water withdrawal.

### Assurance Opinion:

Based on the process and procedures conducted, we conclude that the total water withdrawal reported above:

- is materially correct and is a fair representation of the water withdrawal data and information;
- has been prepared in accordance with the GRI Standards Sustainability Reporting Guidelines, and the ICMM Water Accounting Framework; and
- has been prepared in accordance with the CDP Project Guidance for Companies, for Corporate Reporting on Water on Behalf of Investors and Supply Chain Members.

It is our opinion that Barrick has established appropriate systems for the collection, aggregation, and analysis of quantitative data for determination of its water withdrawal for the stated period and boundaries.

### Statement by Apex of independence, integrity, and competence

Apex is an independent professional services company that specializes in Health, Safety, Social and Environmental management services including assurance with over 30 years history in providing these services.

No member of the assurance team has a business relationship with Barrick, its Directors or Managers beyond that required of this assignment. We conducted this assurance assignment independently and to our knowledge there has been no conflict of interest.

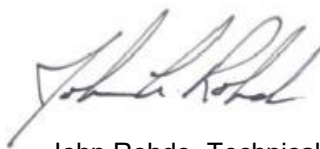
Apex has implemented a Code of Ethics across the business to maintain high ethical standards among staff in their day-to-day business activities.

The assurance team has extensive experience in conducting assurance over environmental, social, ethical and health and safety information, systems and processes, has over 20 years combined experience in this field and an excellent understanding of Apex's standard methodology for the assurance and verification of sustainability data.

### Attestation:



David Reilly, Lead Assurer  
ESG - Principal Consultant  
Apex Companies, LLC



John Rohde, Technical Reviewer  
ESG - Principal Consultant  
Apex Companies, LLC

May 3, 2024

*This assurance statement, including the opinion expressed herein, is provided to Barrick and is solely for the benefit of Barrick in accordance with the terms of our agreement. We consent to the release of this statement to the public or other organizations, but without accepting or assuming any responsibility or liability on our part to any other party who may have access to this statement.*