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Public Lecture on Flooding of South African Collieries facilitated by Dr. Eelco Lukas

He obtained his Master's and Ph.D degrees in 2012 and 2020 respectively from the Institute of Groundwater Studies (IGS) at the University of the Free State. He is currently the developer of the Windows Interpretation System for Hydrogeologists (WISH) and was appointed Director of the IGS in 2018.

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Summary of the Public Lecture



According to Dr. Eelco Lukas, recharge flooding is nothing new as it occurs from the first day when a mine is created. It is a phenomenon that occurs at the full extent of a mine and it is influenced by rainfall intensity, surface topography, geological structures, the state of rehabilitation, thickness of topsoil and the vegetation.

He further stated that flooding an underground mine due to recharge is a very slow and time-consuming process, the speed at which this happens is highly dependable on the permeability of the overlaying strata.

Geohydrological processes related to mining are groundwater which enters the mine from the sides, the bottom and the top, as well as the surface water entering the mine through preferential pathways such as cracks, boreholes and shafts.

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