

**Rössing Uranium - Desalination plant**  
**SEIA Focus Group Meeting – Key Stakeholders**

DATE	Thursday, 31 July 2014
VENUE:	Swakopmund Hotel & Entertainment Centre
PROJECT:	Desalination Plant for Rössing Uranium
PROJECT NUMBER:	734.18013.00002
PURPOSE:	<p>The purpose of the meeting was to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present the Social and Environmental Impact Assessment (SEIA) process being followed</li> <li>• Explain the motivation and overview of the proposed Desalination Project</li> <li>• Discuss potential social and environmental impacts</li> <li>• Allow key stakeholders to provide input into the SEIA process</li> </ul>
ATTENDANCE:	See attendance register attached in Appendix 1.

### **1. OPEN AND INTRODUCTION**

Werner Petrick (WP) welcomed all to the meeting and introduced the project team for SLR as well as Rössing Uranium representatives, i.e. Carlo van Heerden (CvH), Shaan van Schalkwyk and Melissa Shanjengange.

This was followed by a short introduction to the purpose of the meeting.

### **1. PRESENTATION**

CvH presented the project background/motivation as well as the description of the project location and various project components.

WP presented the SEIA process being followed and explained the potential social and environmental issues that were identified as part of the screening phase of the SEIA. He ended the formal presentation by discussing the way forward regarding the SEIA process.

A copy of the presentation is Appended to the Scoping Report.

### **2. DISCUSSION**

Any issues and concerns raised during the meeting have been recorded in Table 1. Where a response was provided the response has also been included in Table 1.

**TABLE 1: RECORD OF ISSUES RAISED AND RESPONSES GIVEN**

Issue raised	By whom	Response
Have Rössing thought of letting the salt works use their discharged brine in their operations?	Anja Kreiner	It has been considered but not included at this stage as the minerals in the brine and salt needs to be assessed.
How does Rössing plan to keep the biological growth from the filters?	Anthony Kostopoulos	Different options are considered at this stage – i.e. the introduction of the buffer ponds or possibly to dose with chlorine gas at the intake to minimise biological growth inside the intake pipeline.

<b>Issue raised</b>	<b>By whom</b>	<b>Response</b>
Once the water is added into the NamWater existing line what is the quality of the water.	Anthony Kostopolas (AVENG Water)	The plant will produce drinking water quality (mixture of Class A and Class B according to the Namibian drinking water standards) to the same specification as the Areva desalinated water.
Why are the mines not using the existing desalination plant and building a new one? Surely government must step in and force compliance so that each mine doesn't have to build its own one?	Anja Kreiner (MFMR)	At the moment no solution to utilise the existing plant economically is on the horizon. Cannot comment on behalf of Government and other parties.
Can the plant be expanded so that other mines can make use of this?	Koos Calitz (Swakop Uranium)	This does not form part of the scope of this project. The plant will be designed to deliver 3 million m <sup>3</sup> of desalinated water to only cater for Rössing's requirements.
What legal permits have to be obtained?	Koos Calitz (Swakop Uranium)	The environmental Clearance Certificate from MET as a result of the SEIA process. Also, a permit from MAWF for the water intake as well as a permit for the discharge of the brine into the sea. The changes to the Accessary Works on the Salt Works Company's mining licence also need to be communicated with MME.
Where are you in the design phase?	Koos Calitz (Swakop Uranium)	The project is currently at a conceptual design stage and the proponent's technical consultants, with input from the Social and Environmental Team, are actively investigating a variety of options for each of the components mentioned above. The current cost estimation is based on a study from Gecko costing the project at a pre-feasibility level.
What is the project timeline?	Koos Calitz (Swakop Uranium)	If all goes according to the current proposed schedule, the final SEIA Report will be submitted to MET towards the end of January 2015. Assuming a review period of 3 months and MET approving the SEIA, construction could commence towards end of April. Construction will take up to 18 months to complete.
What will happen to this plant if Rössing shuts down?	Anja Kreiner (MFMR)	The lifespan of the plant is 10 years which aligns with the remaining life of the Rössing Mine.  Rössing has adopted a survival strategy for the next 3 and half years, which includes obtaining water from a less expensive desalination source.  The proposed plant will therefore bring significant savings and brings the mine's (operational) costs down.

<b>Issue raised</b>	<b>By whom</b>	<b>Response</b>
		The decommissioning and closure phase will also be addressed in the SEIA process.
Rössing needs to check that the inlet and outlet are situated properly so that the inlet isn't taking in the brine from outlet and also take the currents into consideration.  The management plan set up for the project should explain the monitoring requirements in details. These requirements were in certain instances too vague in the previous desalination project.	Philip Hooks (Geo Pollution Technologies)	Yes, this issue is being investigated by the engineering team. The exact intake and discharge locations still need to be determined by the Engineers, with input from the SEIA specialist assessments (i.e. marine ecology, etc.).  Noted. The Social and Environmental Management Plan (SEMP) will include the detailed monitoring requirements that will be developed with input from the various specialists and also in consultation with other key stakeholders.
Can we make it possible for Anja and her team to work with Pisces on this so that her team can gain experience?	Anja Kreiner (MFMR)	We would support this idea. WP indicated that he would however discuss this with the Marine Ecologist after the meeting to determine the practicalities and will further liaise with Anja Kreiner in this regard.
What happens to the data that is collected and can it be made available for others in a database that allows for others to use the researched information?	Anja Kreiner (MFMR)	The SEIA reports are public information. The data that will be collected can also be made available.
Can the plant be extended?	Dag Kullman (Valencia)	No, this is not in the scope of the project. Before an extension can be considered another SEIA process with associated authorisations would be required.
Will the development of this plant hamper NamWater's plans for their own project?	Dag Kullman (MFMR)	NamWater planned to construct a desalination plant at Mile 6.  Cannot comment on behalf of NamWater.
There is some wind study data available that was obtained from our weather station and put together by a German student. This information can be made available to your noise specialist.	Anja Kreiner (MFMR)	Noted with thanks.
Will chlorine gas be used to treat the water? What will this impact be?	Dag Kullman (Valencia)	This is one of the options still being investigated by the project (Engineering) team. The potential impacts associated with this will be assessed as part of the SEIA process, should this be a feasible option.

### **3. CLOSE**

WP thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.