

Rössing Uranium Limited
MEETING WITH MET SWAKOPMUND AND THE ERONGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

DATE	Wednesday, 24 October 2012
VENUE:	Swakopmund, Rossmund Golf Course
PROJECT:	Rössing Uranium: Mining of the Z20 Uranium Deposit – SEIA process
PURPOSE:	<p>The purpose of the meeting was to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide information on the proposed project • discuss the proposed SEIA process to be followed • provide information on the public participation process • obtain initial comments on the project and the proposed SEIA process
ATTENDANCE:	See attendance register

1. OPEN

Bea Whittaker (BW) welcomed the group and introduced the project team.

2. PRESENTATION

Carlo Van Heerden (CvH) presented the proposed project to the audience by referring to the prepared powerpoint presentation:

- Technical aspects of the project, including details on the infrastructure corridor (access road, water and fuel pipelines, power line), pit and waste rock design, plant changes and tailing facilities

A detailed presentation was delivered by Hermann Frühstück (H??) from Doppelmayr, the company that designs and constructs the conveyor.

- Provided details on the technical aspects of the overland conveyor system, which is to be used in the proposed project. (RopeCon system)

Werner Petrick (WP) from SLR Consulting Namibia (SLR) delivered a presentation on the steps that will be conducted for the proposed project SEIA and the social and environmental aspects.

- The SEIA process for the infrastructure corridor will be completed after the Scoping phase.
- The rest of the project components will be further assessed during the next phase (assessment phase).
- MET should therefore be in a position to make a decision on the infrastructure corridor after the scoping phase.

WP explained that during the screening phase the SEIA Team studied existing information in quite some detail. (I.e. previous SEIAs in the area, Rössing monitoring results, information provided by supplier of the conveyor, etc.). The SEIA Team in liaison with Rössing Uranium agreed that the infrastructure corridor can be subject to a Scoping phase only, taking the following into consideration:

- The potential social and environmental impacts relating to this type of activity (linear infrastructure) is fairly well understood;

- the receiving socio-economic and biophysical environment have been studied and contextualised in detail; and
- Additional input/assessment requirements from environmental specialists have been identified and will be included in the Scoping Report. These will be supplemented (where required) by input from I&APs during the PPP.
- A stand-alone EMP will be developed for the infrastructure corridor.

3. DISCUSSION

The following issues/comments were made during the meeting:

Issue Raised	Response
Rod Braby: With reference to the Uranium Rush SEIA/SEMP, all water for mining activities should be coming from desalinated sources. A bigger (national) problem is the over-abstraction of groundwater resources.	CvH: Rössing has committed to using desalinated water for any expansion projects, and to pay NamWater desalinated water rates. NamWater is still in negotiations relating to desalinated water
Rod Braby: Through the SEMP, there should be greater cooperation between the various mines and proposed projects. This does not appear to be happening.	Rainer Schneeweiss (RS): Comment noted and Rössing acknowledges that it is important for the mines to be willing to talk and negotiate. It should be noted that there is still no-one in a co-ordinating role in the SEMP office to bring the various parties together. There is a liaison with the EMWUC, but at present there is little cooperation regarding infrastructure.
Selma Uushini: As a requirement of the SEMP it is necessary to do a cumulative impact assessment for the proposed project. Also, given the recent NamPower study into bird fatalities and power lines, it would be important to keep this in mind with regards to the conveyor system.	WP: Comment noted.
Rod Braby: The National Park is being “raped” as a result of all these activities taking place within its boundaries. More cohesion needed.	WP: Comment noted. The project team will consider the SEMP and apply it within EIA’s and the associated processes. RS: A good platform for these sorts of discussions is the Uranium Stewardship Committee.
Rod Braby: It is important to include the Parks and Wildlife personnel at the Ganab Station within this ESIA process, since they do the monitoring in the Namib Naukluft Park.	WP: Comment noted. They were invited to this meeting and information has been forwarded to them.
Selma Uushini: With the lower moisture content of the high density TSF, there will be an increase in dust, what are the mitigating measures for this?	RS: The high density tailings are not completely dry, but over time it will dry. As part of the ongoing operations of the HD TSF the completed deposition areas will be covered with ripios in order to prevent dust erosion. Further assessment will be conducted in the next phase of the SEIA. Pierre Smit (PS): Some ripios material will be mixed in order to produce a coarser and sandier material.
Selma Uushini: What are the measures to protect against seepage for the TSF?	RS: The catchment and drainage areas have been delineated and it has been found that the water from seepage can be trapped and intercepted before it reaches any sensitive areas. Surface water run-off will be trapped in a dam. The alluvial system will be managed with cut-off trenches and pumping with a submersible pump within the valley. There is a geological fault, where the pit will be established, resulting in deflection of water flow away from the Khan into the open pit cone of depression. The phase 4

	mining plan considers mining into the water passway completely intercepting any potential flow.
Selma Uushini: Tailings are contaminated with the processing chemicals, and this will just be allowed to seep into the ground?	RS: Yes, it will be allowed to seep into the ground, but it will be recaptured before it reaches the Khan River, close to the tailings facility at source. WP: Note that there will be less water to seep into the ground as the tailings has a lower moisture content. The potential impacts associated with the proposed changes to the TSF will be assessed as part of the next phase of the SEIA.
Rod Braby: Will the TSF replace the old facility, or will they run concurrently?	RS: The proposed heap leach plant would be constructed on the current tailings dam. The ripios disposal area previously approved would be shifted to the south on the Dome to allow positioning of the new TSF on the northern part of the Dome.
Selma Uushini: Within the report it should indicate how much funds have been set aside for rehabilitation.	WP: Comment noted.
Selma Uushini: When dealing with the general public, be sure to explain the engineering terms in simpler language.	CvH: Comment noted.

4. CLOSE

BW closed the meeting and thanked the focus group for their interest in the proposed project.