Rössing Uranium - Desalination plant
SEIA Authorities Meeting – NamWater

DATE	Thursday, 7 August 2014
VENUE:	NamWater
PROJECT:	Desalination Plant for Rössing Uranium
PROJECT NUMBER:	734.18013.00002
PURPOSE:	The purpose of the meeting was to: • Present the Social and Environmental Impact Assessment (SEIA) process being followed • Explain the motivation and overview of the proposed Desalination Project • Discuss potential social and environmental impacts • Allow NamWater to provide input into the SEIA process
ATTENDANCE:	See attendance register attached in Appendix 1.

1. OPEN AND INTRODUCTION

Werner Petrick (WP) from SLR welcomed all to the meeting and introduced himself as well as the Rössing Uranium representative, Rainer Schneeweiss.

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

2. PRESENTATION

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

He also 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.

3. 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/ comment	By whom	Response
If agreement is reached between Rössing, NamWater and other stakeholders, will this project be off the table?	NamWater	Yes.
Will the intake be a jetty type?		The final decision regarding the various infrastructure components are still being considered by the Engineers with input from the

		Environmental team. However, the intake system will most likely be a jetty type structure next to, and relatively similar to the existing Salt Works one.
Will a pilot plant be implemented to test the processes?		No, this is not considered at the moment. The water at the likely intake and discharge locations will now be monitored as well as the water along the existing Salt Works intake channel.
NamWater also took a few samples at Mile 8 and monthly samples at the Areva plant. The information can be made available.		Noted with thanks.
Will the pre-treatment only consist of DAF? How will the effluent be discharged from this pre-treatment system? What about post-treatment?		The various treatment options are still being considered by the Engineers with input from the environmental team.
Is the intention to put the desalinated water into the NamWater system? What will the quality of the desalinated water be?		Yes, the plan is for the desalinated water to be transported to Rössing via the existing NamWater pipeline. The plant will produce drinking water quality to the same specification as the Areva water.
Take note that the new water acts, regulations will be enforced soon with stricter requirements for Chloride and Boron. Class B for Chloride and Boron will in future not be sufficient. To allow for this requirement, the process might require 2 passes.		Noted.
Will discharge of brine to the salt works be an option?		The chemicals used in the desalination process will determine the output content of the brine and therefore influence the suitability of this option. This is not currently part of the project but may be investigated later.
The NamWater desalination plant includes a discharge beyond the mixing zone (at ± 600 m into the sea). Is this an option?		The different discharge options are being investigated by the Engineers with input from the environmental team. It is important to realise that this plant will be designed for 3 million m^3 per annum output capacity. The most likely option will be a discharge of the brine into the waves (beyond the low water mark of the sea). The potential impacts from a marine ecology point of view however still need to be assessed, etc.
The sea water current is in a northerly direction. Will the discharge being upstream not impact on the intake quality?		This issue is being investigated by the engineering team. The exact intake and discharge locations still need to be determined as part of the ongoing studies by the Engineers, taking the currents, water quality and dispersion into account, with

		input from the SEIA specialist assessments (i.e. marine ecology, etc.).
What permits will be applied for?		The environmental Clearance Certificate from MET after 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.
Other mines might follow the same route. Did the public ask why more plants will be constructed and why this is happening?		Yes, this did come up in the meetings with the public and other stakeholders. This is not the preferred approach (to have all these desalinated plants) as was spelled out in the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). However, from a cost perspective, Rössing has already curtailed its operations due to the low uranium price. It has adopted a survival strategy for the next 3 and half years, which includes assumptions of a less expensive desalination source. The survival strategy is therefore partially dependant on the success of this project.
If Government allows this plant they should be OK with allowing future similar plants as well.		No comment.
How big will the plant be?		With reference to the BID, the media filters and Reverse Osmosis (RO) plant will be housed in the same building which will be approximately 60m x 20m x6m high, while the post treatment and pre-treatment plants, and the storage tanks would be located adjacent to the plant building. The equipment room, offices, and chemical storage room would also be housed in a 13m x 20m x 6m high building that is connected, or is immediately adjacent, to the main plant building.
When will the project be implemented? i.e. when will the first drop of water be supplied?		If all goes according the the current proposed schedule, the final SEIA Report will be submitted to MET towards the end of Jan 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. The entire cost would range from 18 to 22 Million US dollars.
The Salt Works might fall within a Nature reserve/protected area?		This will have to be confirmed.
How much solid waste will be produced? How much will be filtered out?		This will have to be determined as part of the ongoing studies.

4. CLOSE

WP thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.