



The Chamber of Mines of Namibia

20 April, 2012

PRESS RELEASE

Senior representatives of the uranium mines in the Erongo region met with Earthlife Namibia and a French non-governmental organization called CRIIRAD* in Swakopmund on the 16th and the 17th April 2012. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss findings of a preliminary report released by CRIIRAD regarding radiation monitoring near uranium mines in Namibia.

The parties agreed that the report is a preliminary report, and that the verification and interpretation of the results will require significant additional work. In addition, consultation with the mining industry and the government will need to be held to discuss the preliminary findings.

According to Mr. Mike Leech, Chair of the Uranium Stewardship Committee of the Chamber of Mines of Namibia, discussions were held in a cooperative manner, on the understanding that the findings would be responsibly managed, without attempts from either party to sensationalize them. He said that the mines have committed to engage positively with Earthlife and CRIIRAD, to ensure that the final report is objective and factual, and of benefit to all relevant stakeholders. Mr. Leech pointed out that Namibia's uranium industry has one of the best combined health and safety records in the world. "The uranium industry has at its heart a simple but enduring principle, namely that those who create risk are best placed to control that risk, whether they are employers, contractors or managers."

The uranium industry furthermore subscribes to the World Nuclear Association's principles of uranium stewardship. These principles embody best practice and ethical conduct for the entire global nuclear industry to ensure that uranium and its by-products are managed in a safe, environmentally responsible, economical and socially acceptable manner.

** CRIIRAD is an acronym for the Commission for Independent Research and Information on Radioactivity, an NGO which specializes in the analysis of radioactivity in the environment. It was created in the aftermath of the Chernobyl catastrophe on April 26, 1986. CRIIRAD claims to be "independent from nuclear exploitants, the state and all political parties".*

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