

**Rössing Uranium - Desalination plant
SEIA Focus Group Meeting – MUN**

DATE	Thursday, 31 July 2014
VENUE:	Rössing Corporate Office, Swakopmund
PROJECT:	Desalination Plant for Rössing Uranium
PROJECT NUMBER:	734.18013.00002
PURPOSE:	The purpose of the meeting was to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 MUN members to provide input into the SEIA process
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, Rainer Schneeweiss 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
What is the distance between Rössing (mine) and the proposed desalination plant? Once the water is in the pipeline is it NamWater's responsibility?	Abiud Kapere	The location of the proposed plant in relation to the Rössing mine was explained by referring to the map in the presentation. It is approximately 50 km from the Rössing mine. The desalinated water will be transported to the mine through the existing NamWater pipeline, who owns and operates this infrastructure. They will remain the responsible

Issue raised	By whom	Response
		party for the maintenance of the pipeline.
Request that the reports also be made available at Arandis and Walvis Bay.	Abiud Kapere	Agreed. The draft reports will also be made available at these locations for review.
With reference to the suction line taking in the seawater and pumping the brine minerals back into the sea, what are the long term effects of this?	Peter Shumba	With reference to the presentation that was made, the intake system pose a risk of mortality of plankton, fish eggs and fish larvae when water is sucked in at the inlet areas. The potential impacts will however be assessed as part of the SEIA process and relevant design, management and mitigation measures will be spelled out as a result of this study.
If the facility takes in 3 million m ³ of water what volumes will be discharged as brine back into the sea?	Festus Shikongo	The desalination plant will be designed to take in 6 million m ³ sea water per year. 3 million m ³ of this water will be desalinated water, transported to Rössing (per year) and ±3 million m ³ will be discharged back into the sea as brine.
How long will it take to complete the construction of the plant and what will and the overall costs be for constructing the plant?	Festus Shikongo	If all goes according the the current proposed schedule, the EIA 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. The entire cost would range from 18 to 22 Million US dollars.
What made you decide to use the Salt Works as the desalination plant site and what is their role in this?	Shawn Peters	There is existing infrastructure at the salt works; it is privately owned land; and is a licenced mining area. One of the salt works' ponds might be used as a buffer pond but this still needs to be determined as part of the engineering design. The plant will be owned by Rössing but operated by an independent contractor (i.e. Gecko Water).
What is the distance between the Areva plant outlet and the proposed Rössing outlet?	Abiud Kapere	The distance is approximately 30 km.
Will the desalinated water be fit for human consumption? Will this water and the Omdel water be mixed?	Peter Shumba	The plant will produce drinking water quality to the same specification as the Areva desalinated water. As is the case with desalinated water from the Areva plant the water derived from the Omdel will be diluted and the quality will improve.

3. CLOSE

WP thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.