

**Rössing Uranium - Desalination plant  
SEIA Public Meeting**

DATE	Thursday, 31 July 2014
VENUE:	Swakopmund Hotel & Entertainment Centre
PROJECT:	Desalination Plant for Rössing Uranium
PROJECT NUMBER:	734.18013.00002
PURPOSE:	The purpose of the public meeting was to: <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 IAPS 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.

**2. 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.

**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	By whom	Response
Will the Swakopmund Salt Works be compensated for the use of the proposed desalination plant site?	M. Introna (LHU)	There will be financial compensation for the use of the site, but the details in this regard are contractual and confidential.

Issue raised	By whom	Response
<p>Rössing plans to pump the desalinated water into the existing NamWater pipeline. What is the possibility of NamWater not allowing the use of their infrastructure? Are any alternative being considered?</p>	<p>M. Introna (LHU)</p>	<p>No-one can answer on NamWater's behalf.</p> <p>However, negotiations with NamWater are already underway. The approach to the water reticulation will follow the same methodology as Areva's plan.</p> <p>An alternative would be a new pipeline from the desalination plant to the Rössing mine, which would require a new project plan and associated SEIA.</p> <p>An alternative to the use of the NamWater infrastructure is however not being considered as part of this project and SEIA process.</p>
<p>The use of brine at the salt works was considered during the Areva desalination plant planning. Is this being considered for the Rössing desalination plant?</p>	<p>Hans Hoffmann</p>	<p>This option is being considered but is not currently part of the project design. The chemicals used in the desalination process will determine the output content of the brine and therefore influence the suitability of such an option. This is not currently part of the project but may be investigated later.</p>
<p>Why not place the whole power line below ground?</p>	<p>Hans Hoffmann</p>	<p>This is one of the options currently being considered. A decision in this regard will be influenced by the outcome of, amongst others, the SEIA and the avifaunal study in particular. The project planning and alternate assessment is linked to the SEIA process.</p> <p>There are existing power line poles along the Henties Bay Road.</p>
<p>How does this desalination plant compare to Areva's plant in size and output?</p>	<p>Hans Hoffmann</p>	<p>Areva's plant has a design production capacity of 20 million cubic meters per annum. The Rössing desalination plant will be designed for 3 million cubic meters per annum output capacity.</p> <p>The Rössing plant will therefore be significantly smaller than Areva's plant.</p> <p>The proposed plant will be housed in two buildings with a footprint of approximately 60m X 20m and 20m X 30m. This equates to a footprint roughly the size of a rugby field.</p>
<p>Is the main drive for this project the cost of water?</p>	<p>F. Schulz (Protea Chemicals)</p>	<p>The main driving force is definitely the cost of water. The estimated cost of water for 2014 is roughly N\$132 million as opposed to N\$60 million for 2013. The proposed project will result in savings of approximately N\$60 million per annum with a payback of just over 3 years.</p>
<p>Why will the provision of water from this smaller plant present such significant cost savings?</p>	<p>F. Schulz (Protea Chemicals)</p>	<p>Firstly, the plant is fit to purpose. The plant has been sized to fit the exact needs of Rössing. The second major factor is the plant's strategic location. This location enables significant cost</p>

Issue raised	By whom	Response
		<p>savings due to the availability of existing infrastructure such as pipelines and power infrastructure.</p> <p>The motivation behind the project is therefore cost driven.</p>
<p>I currently live in Mile 4. Will I be affected by increased noise levels?</p>	<p>Botha Ellis (Mile 4 resident)</p>	<p>A noise specialist will assess noise impacts as part of the SEIA process. If the specialist determines that there will be significant noise impacts, then the design of the project will be influenced in order to reduce the significance of this impact.</p>
<p>What is the design life of the plant?</p>	<p>M. Introna (LHU)</p>	<p>The plant will be designed to last 10 years, which aligns with the remaining life of the Rössing Mine.</p>
<p>Why hasn't NamWater already done something like this yet?</p>	<p>Hans Hoffmann</p>	<p>The project team cannot respond on NamWater's behalf.</p>
<p>Can the study for the Wlotzkasbaken desalination plant be used for this study?</p>	<p>Hartmut Dichtel (Engineer)</p>	<p>Due to differences in size and location, the information presented in the Wlotzkasbaken assessment cannot be used. However, the Mile 6 desalination plant study can be used, as these are located much closer to each other. A number of the specialist team members who were involved in the Mile 6 EIA will also be involved in this SEIA.</p>
<p>Are there any glaring environmental issues associated with the project?</p>	<p>Hartmut Dichtel (Engineer)</p>	<p>The site on which the plant is to be located is an important bird area. The site is known as a Damara Tern nesting site and Damara Terns in particular are therefore being looked into.</p>

#### 4. CLOSE

WP thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.