WHAT SPECIAL MEASURES ARE TAKEN WITH FEMALE WORKERS AT RÖSSING URANIUM?

At Rössing Uranium, all workers are classified as occupationally exposed persons. Legally, an annual radiation exposure dose of 20 mSv may not be exceeded for workers; this is referred to as the occupational dose limit.

All persons not working at the Rössing Uranium mine site are regarded as members of the public. Legally, an annual radiation exposure dose of 1 mSv above natural background and medical radiation may not be exceeded for the public. This is referred to as the public dose limit.

The unborn child of a pregnant worker at the Rössing mine is classified as a member of the public.

What does this mean?
• The radiation dose for some workers may exceed 1 mSv per year and can in rare instances reach up to 12 mSv per year for select individuals.
• Occupational exposure doses exceeding 1 mSv per year, while not exceeding the occupational dose limit, are not compliant with the public dose limit, and must therefore be prevented from occurring in pregnant workers.
• Female workers in areas with an identified increased radiation exposure risk are therefore required to undergo monthly pregnancy testing. This is to protect any unborn child from being exposed to doses exceeding the public dose limit, and allows the operation to promptly move pregnant workers to working areas in which compliance with the public dose limit can be ensured and verified.