

MEETING	Public participation meeting: Windhoek	DATE	FILE NAME
VENUE	NamPower Convention Centre	20 Oct 2004	lhumin.ppm.2004.10.20.doc

ATTENDEES	APOLOGIES
As per attendance register lhuppmatreg.2004.10.20.	None received.

DISTRIBUTION	Ministry of Environment and Tourism (Connie Claassen), as per attendance register lhuppmatreg.2004.10.20 and registered interested and affected parties.
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Item	Minutes/notes	
1.	Introduction JFCF welcomed everybody to the meeting and presented the agenda for the meeting.	
2.	Paladin Resources Ltd presentation – John Borshoff JB introduced the project team and gave an overview of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • historical background of uranium and its demand, current trends in the uranium market and the future outlook for uranium, • company profile of Paladin Resources Ltd and their current projects, and • the Langer Heinrich uranium project. 	
3.	Question (Q) and response (R) session	
	Q	MS Is it true that the mining area has already been excised from the NNP and when?
	R	LEP Can not give you an exact answer at present, but to my knowledge it has been excised before the current owner took over.
4.	Softchem presentation – Francois Friend JFCF introduced the Softchem project team and gave a brief description of the environmental assessment (EA) process. The presentation then addressed the environmental assessment study completed for the Langer Heinrich uranium project and the contents of the EA draft report.	
5.	Question (Q) and response (R) session	
	Q	MS Source of water?
	R	JFCF Water will be obtained from the Swakopmund reservoir.
		KL Water will be sourced from Omdel and Kuiseb.
	Q	MS Has corrosion of the pipe been addressed in the design of the pipeline?
	R	KL The team is looking into that problem and we will use material that has a life time of at least 15 years.
	Q	PA What amounts of electricity and water are required for the project?
	R	DB Electricity - 12 MW is needed, and water between 600,000 to 1,000,000 m ³ per annum.
	Q	MS The quality of the water to be used?
	R	DB At present assumptions are made with potable water quality. Water will also be used for dust suppression. At present local water has not been considered due to the potential negative impact on fauna in the area.
	Q	MS Where will the workforce be accommodated.
	R	JFCF During operation people will be accommodated in Swakopmund or Walvis Bay and daily transported to the mine. However, some people have to be housed on site during the construction phase.

6.	Process plant presentation – Darryl Butcher	
	DB gave an explanation of the various process plant to be used for producing the final product, giving design reasons for certain plant selections.	
7.	Question (Q) and response (R) session	
	Q	RM How much active uranium will be disposed off in the tailings?
	R	DB Approximately 80 ppm U ₃ O ₈ in tailings. The amount of uranium mineralisation in the tailings will be lower than was in-situ prior to mining, by a factor of 10.
	Q	RM What will be the stripping ratio?
	R	DB Approximately 2.5 : 1.
	Q	RM Three waste products will be produced: waste material, pebbles and tailings. How are pebbles dealt with?
	R	DB Pebbles will be recombined in tailings.
	Q	RM What will be the impact of wind on tailings - dust creation?
	R	JS Dispersion models have been compiled, based on climatic conditions collected for the site, and are included in the draft report. Transport of material on roads will be a significant dust generator, hence wetting of the roads.
	Q	RM At present the uranium is largely underground and the final tailings disposed on surface. High east wind transport fine particles as far as 200 m into the sea near the coast – this has to be mitigated.
	R	JS Tailings will be covered. Our biggest concern regarding the tailings material is radon, as one of the most active decay products along with the radon daughter products.
		DB The tailings dam will be continuously rehabilitated by covering with waste material. At present the option to dispose final tailings into mined out pit areas are investigated – this is the preferred option. However, all tailings will be capped. We do not expect that the radioactivity of dust loads will be higher than at present. Currently a lot of fine material is lying on the surface. We will not leave any tailings dam areas uncovered.
		LEP Refers to the map showing the proposed mining area – the blue line shows the flow of the Gawib River – estimates show that approximately 30% of the uranium mineralisation has already been transported into the Swakop river over time
	Q	RM Will you recycle the water used at the plant?
	R	DB There is a large focus on recycling of water, for both economic and environmental reasons.
		TS Evaporation and wetting of the roads will negatively affect water balance.
	Q	JSD Will mining occur below water table?
	R	LEP Models conducted from drilling data show that natural barriers damming the water exist in the old channels, but the real inflow of water is low. Will really only get a ponding effect.
		DB Dust suppression is the largest single user of water, therefore we look at using coagulants. Hopefully it will work, as water consumption will be significantly lower.
	Q	PA Have you looked at other ways of suppressing dust?
	R	DB Yes, coagulants.
	Q	PA Could you salt the roads?
	R	DB Will be even more environmentally unsound.
	Q	RR The lifetime of the mine is proposed to be 10 years, maybe 15 years. What if exporting countries have to take back waste from importing countries? This is presently internationally discussed.
	R	JB Waste products from reactors are the responsibility of utilisers. At present reactor companies look at geological disposal only after 50-60 years, to allow for decay.

7. Question (Q) and response (R) session (continued)		
Q	RR	The future practice has to be taken into account. Powerful lobbies are behind that idea.
R	JB	Countries are looking at developing an industry of managing repositories for high level radioactive waste. The volume of waste is very low compared to other fuels used for generating electricity (about 500,000 t). Engineering of waste disposal is possible but presently social perception is a problem and education is necessary.
	JS	The final product yellowcake is also different to the nuclear fuel referred to in the discussion.
Q	JSD	The amount of water needed was stated as 1,000,000 m ³ /annum. How does this figure compare with the current water use of Swakopmund? Is it 1/3 of the current water amount of the area?
R	TS	More boreholes will have to be developed/upgraded.
	LEP	In meeting with NamWater it was indicated that excess water is available.
Q	JSD	What about desalination?
R	LEP	NamWater indicated that there is enough water. We did not address desalination options. However, more detail with regard to water consumption and sources will be included in the final report, also indicating consumption values and estimates after discussions with local authorities.
Q	MS	Omdel water is fossil water – how will the influx of an additional 1,000 people living in Swakopmund and Walvis Bay affect water consumption?
R	TS	Many of the workforce will already live in the area - workforce sourced mainly at the coast.
Q	DS	Corporate responsibility/social benefits – what specific groups will be targeted? Has a social participation process been established?
R	JB	We anticipate a broad-based participation that will include various activities, for example, transportation will be outsourced. We are committed to undertake worker and community participation as serious initiatives. We realise that we must be careful how we achieve our objectives and will consult with more stakeholders as the project progresses.
Q	RM	I have to come back to the question of water use. If you increase the water use at the coast by 25%, you will have to consider the impacts. Water is being mined and not being recharged. More infrastructure has cost implications via price increase for all coastal residents.
R	JB	The general expected economic benefits would mitigate these aspects. How can a country's economy grow? Water is a critical issue but a balance has to be found between growth, economic benefits and maintaining value for people already there.
Q	RM	Not sure if NamWater is caring enough about supply and implications.
R	JB	We can not speak on behalf of NamWater. Checks and balances are a big issue everywhere. We will consider all options for water recovery. We will include a more detailed feedback from NamWater, as well as findings of further investigations in the final report.
Q	JSD	Why not use lower quality water? Do you have to use potable water?
R	DB	No, the water does not have to be of potable water quality, but the quality has to be of a reasonable standard. Low-grade water has to be processed before it can be used in the plant. We try to keep water consumption as low as possible, but do not want to use the option of lowering the water table. So far we had to rely on NamWater's advice.
Q	DS	How will the project be financed?
R	JB	Funding for this and other projects is based on value of the projects, as determined from the Bankable Feasibility Study; and will not necessarily be all debt funding, also draw on Paladin's equity funds.

7.	Question (Q) and response (R) session (continued)	
Q	DS	Any chance of a dual listing in Namibia?
R	JB	Looking at this in Johannesburg, but understand that there is a secondary listing possibility for Namibia. We will need to evaluate this and determine if it is possible and the resultant benefits.
Q	DS	When is the exploration licence expiring?
R	JB	We currently hold a Retention Licence, which will expire in August 2005. After the bankable feasibility study has been completed, we will apply for a mining licence.
Q	DS	How do you entice possible investors without holding a mining licence?
R	JB	All conditional to obtaining the mining licence. We have all the funds required to conduct the bankable feasibility study.
R	EIS	In order to obtain a mining licence, proof has to be provided that the funding exists, together with process feasibility and this environmental assessment.
Q	JSD	What percentage of qualified people can not be sourced in Namibia?
R	JB	Less than 10% expats will be utilised – that amounts for approximately 5-6 people. We are hoping to source local people and only to use expats as the occasional consultant. We hope also to export Namibian expertise to Malawi.
Q	SM	Have you looked at future policy changes and amendments in Namibia?
R	JFCF	This environmental assessment is mainly based on existing legislation – will be modified as required.
Q	SM	A lot of bills are pending and should be taken into account.
R	JB	We can only operate within the existing regime. However, the environmental management programme is a living document, and will be able to accommodate future changes in legislation.
8.	<p>Closure</p> <p>JFCF thanked the audience for the good attendance and valuable input into the project.</p> <p>The minutes will be distributed to all people present and will also be made available on the internet at www.softchem.co.za under news items.</p> <p>The full environmental assessment draft report is available from the following link: http://www.paladinresources.com.au/ under investor relations.</p>	