



MINUTES OF MEETING



MEETING	Public participation meeting: Swakopmund	DATE	FILE NAME
VENUE	Fisheries Centre Lecture Hall	21 Oct 2004	lhumin.ppm.2004.10.21.doc

ATTENDEES	APOLOGIES
As per attendance register lhuppmatreg.2004.10.21.	None received.

DISTRIBUTION	Ministry of Environment and Tourism (Connie Claassen), as per attendance register lhuppmatreg.2004.10.21 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 There were no questions for this session.																		
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 There were no questions for this session.																		
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 <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 5%;">Q</td> <td style="width: 15%;">JVH</td> <td>What are the water requirements for the plant/mine?</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R</td> <td>DB</td> <td>The processing plant will use 300,000 – 400,000 m³/year. However, dust suppression is another major water consumer and presently we are investigating the use of coagulants. The total consumption will be close to 1,000,000 m³/year. NamWater advised Paladin that they could provide the required amount of water. A decision was made that no water will be taken from the Khan and Kuiseb rivers, as environmental impacts would be too high.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q</td> <td>MA</td> <td>Where will the workforce be housed?</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R</td> <td>DB</td> <td>Staff will not be housed permanently at the site, but accommodation will be build at the mine for emergencies. Staff will live in Swakopmund or Walvis Bay.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q</td> <td>JH</td> <td>By when will you know if the pits will be filled in?</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R</td> <td>DB</td> <td>Will know more after the bankable feasibility study has been finalised and timetables are made.</td> </tr> </table>	Q	JVH	What are the water requirements for the plant/mine?	R	DB	The processing plant will use 300,000 – 400,000 m ³ /year. However, dust suppression is another major water consumer and presently we are investigating the use of coagulants. The total consumption will be close to 1,000,000 m ³ /year. NamWater advised Paladin that they could provide the required amount of water. A decision was made that no water will be taken from the Khan and Kuiseb rivers, as environmental impacts would be too high.	Q	MA	Where will the workforce be housed?	R	DB	Staff will not be housed permanently at the site, but accommodation will be build at the mine for emergencies. Staff will live in Swakopmund or Walvis Bay.	Q	JH	By when will you know if the pits will be filled in?	R	DB	Will know more after the bankable feasibility study has been finalised and timetables are made.
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7. Question (Q) and response (R) session (continued)		
	DM	Dewatering of the tailings is important before they are disposed of in the pits.
	DB	We plan to start with in-pit deposition from the beginning.
Q	MB	Rössing produces approximately 2,500 t/year and has a workforce of 800. How will you meet your production of 1,000 t/year with 100 people?
R	DM	The plant has simpler flow sheets, fewer units and the processing is less labour intensive.
	JB	We are a smaller company with a flat management structure and will have a multi-skilling approach. People are important on site and will be trained to high skill levels, and the plant will be highly mechanised – hence less staff.
Q	MB	Your final product will be yellow cake. How will you transport it?
R	DB	The transporting will be according to international standards. The yellow cake is packed in the standard 200 litre drums and transported by road to Walvis Bay and shipped from there.
Q	MB	Does the company Langer Heinrich Uranium (Pty) Ltd have any local stakeholders?
R	LEP	Langer Heinrich Uranium (Pty) Ltd is a Namibian company, presently 100% owned by Paladin.
	JB	Paladin has 2,000 shareholders of whom 40% are located in North America and Europe and the remaining 60% in Australia.
Q	RS	Do you have any operating mines?
R	JB	No.
Q	RS	Where then does the earlier mentioned expertise comes from?
R	JB	Our staff from America and Australia has long experience in uranium mining.
	LEP	I worked at Rössing way back in 1971 already.
	DM	People involved in GRDMinproc have expertise and a good knowledge of uranium processes.
Q	JVH	Where will the workshop be located – in Swakopmund or Walvis Bay?
R	JB	Office will be established in Swakopmund next year, in which the CEO of the Langer Heinrich Uranium (Pty) Ltd will possibly reside. Other facilities could be in Walvis Bay, and a representative office will be opened in Windhoek.
	DB	The workshop will be on site.
Q	SM	How high is the uranium dose?
R	JS	The average dose to workers for these kind of operations is in the order of 5 mSv/a. The dose limit for workers is 20 mSv/a. We will work according to international standards set by the International Atomic Energy Agency and follow ALARA principles.
Q	JL	The Langer Heinrich mine is situated in the Namib Naukluft Park (NNP), the establishment will have a significant impact on the environment of the park. Will there be any benefits for the park and if yes of what nature?
R	JB	We will establish a fund, which will be for the development of the NNP.
	DB	The biggest benefit will be the strengthening of the Namibian economy.
R	JL	A strong economy will not necessarily flow back into conservation.
Q	JFCF	Do you have any suggestions for benefits to the park?
R	JL	Benefits have to be directly provided to the NNP.
Q	JL	How long will the operation be?
R	DB	We will have a 24-hour operation.
	JB	Most process steps will not create a high noise impact, but some do, for example, blasting. We will stay in close relations with park management, as we have already established to streamline all different operational steps. For example, the mine in Kakadu National Park (Australia) provides training for guards and helps to upgrade the infrastructure.
	LL	At present the drilling noise can not be heard at Bloedkoppie, and the mining operation will have no noise impact. Certain activities might have, but will be conducted when no or only few tourists are present.

7. Question (Q) and response (R) session (continued)		
Q	JL	The access to the mine will not go past Bloedkoppie?
R	LEP	The access will be directly from the west, coming from Swakopmund.
Q	JL	Could you elaborate on your rehabilitation and decommissioning plans?
R	JFCF	A fund or trust will be established to ensure that sufficient resources are available for final decommissioning. (Not as the case with some abandoned mine in the park itself.) However, the main aim will be for progressive rehabilitation on an ongoing basis. Mined out pit areas will be decommissioned on an ongoing basis.
R	JL	Ongoing rehabilitation is highly appreciated, as negative impacts of previous mining/exploration activities are shown all over in the park.
Q	MB	I would like to come back to the water issue. You had discussions with NamWater, but did you also approach the local authorities (Department of Water Affairs, municipalities) regarding the future demand of the region? We have to keep in mind that the last two/three rainy seasons were very good and recharge did happen. How will you assure that all stakeholders will get their water in future?
R	DB	NamWater has to assess the situation properly and advise us.
Q	SM	Reiterated MB's comments regarding water. Have you thought about recycling water.
R	DB	Will recycle as much water as possible. Some water will be discharged with the tailings, but everything else will be recycled.
Q	JL	What is the proposed route for the power line?
R	LEP	So far NamPower indicated that we will get power from Walmund substation, but new discussions mentioned that the power might be provided from Kuiseb substation. So far we hope that no new road has to be built for construction and for the servicing of the power line, as it will follow the C28.
Q	AP	Will you comply with ISO 14000 and 18001?
R	JFCF	All mining activities will be aligned with ISO 14001 and possibly ISO 18001. However, the aim is to become certified. It is also easier to ensure environmental compliance when an ISO 14001 system is in place. The process activities will probably include ISO 9001 and the logical step would be to include all three standards from the beginning of mining activities.
Q	JBU	What percentage will Namibians be of the workforce?
R	DB	We aim to employ at least 90% Namibians.
Q	JBA	What will be your manufacturing status?
R	JB	No final decision has been made yet.
Q	JBA	Will you apply for EPZ status?
R	LEP	We may apply for EPZ status.
Q	JBA	That would decrease the contribution to the Namibian economy.
R	DB	We do not know the outcome yet.
R	JBA	The Namibian Government will not encourage you to apply for an EPZ status.
R	DB	Let us wait for the final decision.
	JB	It all will depend on the discussion we have with the Namibian Government. Maybe we will agree to extend the life of mine as a trade off. However, we have to sit down and have talks. Also it looks like the EPZ status might exclude people from benefits, we have to calculate the financial options and try to achieve a win-win-situation.
Q	II	Do you know how many Namibian companies will be involved in the construction phase?
R	DB	As mentioned earlier, we are committed to strengthen the Namibian economy. We have to assess how much Namibian expertise exist and look at their price competitiveness.
	DM	We are already involving Namibian consultants in the bankable feasibility study.
Q	II	Will you include black empowerment companies?
R	DB	Yes.

7. Question (Q) and response (R) session (continued)		
Q	II	Did you look at the safety aspect of the road to the mine? Are you planning to tar the road?
R	DB	The road will remain a gravel road. Even during construction the main workforce will be bussed to site and no private vehicles will be allowed.
R	II	This solution is not good enough regarding the general safety aspect.
R	TS	The majority of road accidents are as a result of driver error.
R	II	I suggest that the road should be tarred.
R	LEP	Environmentally, including visually, this will be to the degradation of the park.
Q	JL	You have to include the aspect of dust generation and possible health impacts regarding lung diseases.
R	LEP	We will use air-conditioned busses.
Q	RS	What is the expected frequency of traffic?
R	DB	During construction 20 - 50 journeys per day, and during operation around 10 – 15 per day.
	LEP	No private vehicles will be allowed on site.
Q	JL	Do you already have consumers for the produced uranium? Are there any specifications consumers have to obey to?
R	JB	No specific consumers yet, but international standards will be applied.
Q	II	Have you considered to build a railroad to the mine site?
R	LEP	No.
Q	JST	Which road will you use from Swakopmund to the mine?
R	LEP	At present we propose to utilise the C28, most people working on the mine will live in Swakopmund.
Q	RS	You will pay for the maintenance of the gravel road as the traffic definitely increases?
R	LEP	At present we are in discussions with Namibian park and road's authorities. We will definitely contribute to the maintenance of the road.
Q	MB	What is your relationship with Rössing?
R	LEP	Uranium is sold on the free market and as shown in the presentation a undersupply of uranium exists worldwide. We have scheduled a meeting with Rössing for tomorrow morning.
Q	RS	Have you held any previous public participation meetings in conjunction with the EIA process?
R	JFCF	No, this series of meetings are the first, with Swakopmund being the second of three.
Q	RS	Should you not have had a first meeting to ensure that issues and concerns raised are addressed and included in the EIA report?
R	JFCF	This is exactly the aim of these meetings. All issues and concerns raised in these three meetings will be included in the final EA document.
Q	RS	At present you have no Environmental Management Plan (EMP) included in the EIA document. However, that is a requirement to obtain the approval from the relevant line ministry.
R	LEP	The EMP will be in place when the document is submitted for approval. The final document will be accessible on the web page.
	DB	The EMP will be a live document.
	JFCF	An environmental management plan/programme is included in the EA draft report, in Section 11 of the report. This will be updated as the project develops.



MINUTES OF MEETING



8. Closure

JFCF thanked the audience for the good attendance and valuable input into the project.

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.

The full environmental assessment draft report is available from the following link:

<http://www.paladinresources.com.au/> under investor relations.