1. Welcome & Introductions

Colin Christian welcomed all present and thanked them for attending the meeting. He introduced those present from CCA. Martin French introduced the members of NRR’s team.

Present from Colin Christian & Associates CC (Environmental Scientists responsible for EIA)

- Colin Christian (Environmental Scientist)
- Maureen Fidler (Public Participation Assistant)
- Various specialist consultants

Present from North River Resources

- Martin French (Executive Director, NRR)
- Dominic Claridge (Project Manager, NLZM)
- Mark Thompson
- Edwin Daweti (Geologist, NRR)
- Frans & Johanna (NRR)

2. Presentation by Colin Christian & Associates CC

Purpose of the Meeting

Colin Christian explained the purpose of the meeting as:

- To introduce the project and explain the project proposal,
- Explain the EIA process,
- Explain the public participation process,
- Answer questions about the project proposal and
- Hear and record any issues or concerns people may have about the project so that they can be addressed in the EIA and environmental management plan (EMP).
- The meeting was an information sharing meeting – not a decision making meeting.
The project location was explained with reference to maps, including the small target area within the EPL, basically within the area disturbed by the previous mining operations.

**Project Proposal in Brief**

- Reopen the old mine for mining underground,
- Crushing and milling,
- Chemical processing to produce lead and zinc concentrates,
- Transporting the product by road (B2) to Port of Walvis Bay,
- Disposal of tailings above ground,
- Removal of all structures, then Rehabilitation of the site.

**Stage 1 involves:**

- Developing access drives to new underground drilling targets,
- Disposal of waste rock from the drives into existing mined out voids,
- Drilling from underground positions,
- Possibly drilling of new targets from the surface.

**Stage 2, following proof of resources, involves:**

- Construction of mine buildings and infrastructure,
- Construction of processing plant, using chemical reagents and differential flotation (an alkaline process),
- Producing lead and zinc concentrates for export (No smelting),
- Further development of access drives and possibly additional shafts,
- Disposal of tailings above ground,
- Closure and rehabilitation of the site.
- The minimum life of mine should be about 5 years.

**Transport:** will be by road to Walvis Bay

**Water supply:** 300,000 m³/year will be required and it is hoped to obtain this from a surplus from Areva’s desalination plant, via the existing Swakop-Rössing water pipeline, and a new pipeline 7km x 110mm dia from an existing take off point. An existing borehole provides non-potable water for drilling.

Power: demand is approximately 2.5 MW. Erongo RED has indicated that sufficient power is available for Stage 1. If necessary it can be supplemented by diesel generators on site for Stage 2. An existing gum pole line exists but conductors need to be replaced.

**Employment:**

- Stage 1: 39 people
- Stage 2 mining: 62 people
- Stage 3 processing: 44 people

**Housing:** No housing will be supplied at the mine – staff will live in Swakopmund (and/or Walvis Bay, Arandis may be possible subject to transport.)

**Benefits to Namibia:**

- Salaries to employees,
- Taxes / royalties to Namibian Government,
- Boost exports and benefit balance of payments,
- Transport services outsourced,
- Maintenance services outsourced,
• Multiplier effects.

**Environmental Impact Assessment Process**

The EIA process was explained and includes:

• Field studies,
• Review of literature, and legal and policy requirements (P. Watson),
• Consultations with Authorities,
• Public participation,
• Specialist studies have been conducted – botanical (Dr. A. Burke), zoological (Dr. J. Irish), archaeological (Dr. J. Kinahan). Geohydrological and surface water studies have been largely completed (SLR Consulting). [An air quality and soils study will be commissioned (Airshed)]
• EIA Report
• Environmental Management Plan

Very little vegetation is affected. Some lithops occur but can be avoided in the mine layout. No major biodiversity issues have arisen. Some potential future mining targets may need more in depth study. Some archaeological sites were found in the EPL, but none are affected by the present mining proposal.

**Public Participation Process**

The Public Participation Process will include:

• Advertisements in press,
• Public information document,
• Two public meetings in Swakopmund,
• Opportunity for written submissions (until end of June 2013)
• Distribution of Summary of Issues & Concerns,
• Chapter on public participation in the EIA report,
• EIA Report will be in the public domain,
• People who have local knowledge of the affected environment are invited to come forward and share their knowledge with CCA.

Decisions regarding project approval will be made by MME and MET.

Photos of the EPL and target mining area were presented.

3. **Presentation by North River Resources**

Martin French provided a brief account of the following:

• NRR intends to re-open a lead and zinc mine.
• The mine previously operated from 1968 to 1992; closed due to low commodity prices, union problems and lack of capital.
• It was mined underground to a depth of about 200m below surface. Illustrations of the underground mine and intact ore deposits were shown.
• Exploration was previously carried out by Kalahari Minerals from 2006 to 2009.
• Various forms of exploration were carried out by NRR from 2009 to 2013. Methods included channel sampling, drilling (from surface and underground), VTEM surveys etc.
• Maiden resource announced of 668,000 tonnes – Indicated and Inferred.
• It is envisaged to mine both deeper (to about 410m) and ore bodies northwards of the old mine.
• A conceptual engineering study has been completed.
• Drilling exploration continues.
Other work at the mine has included dewatering (15,000 m³ litres), clean up inside the mine, removal of old infrastructure, removal of derelict buildings that had been vandalised years ago, clean up around the mine generally.

Planned production

- All underground mining.
- It is planned to mine 200,000 tonnes of ore per annum, which produces approximately 32,000t of concentrates, containing 13,000t of metal.
- The ore will be coarse ground to 144 microns.
- Processing with chemical reagents is required.
- Tailings to be disposed of above ground.
- Total investment of £15 million. The lead time to production is 20 months.

4. Questions, Issues and Concerns about Environmental Aspects

1. Q: You mentioned the size of the EPL (4000 ha), what will be the size of the mine area?
   A: The Mining Licence application will be the EPL, but the mine will basically be limited to the area already disturbed on the surface.

2. Q: Where will the waste rock be disposed of?
   A: Most of the waste rock (marble) will be left underground in old voids, and some may be used to cover the tailings.

3. Q: How do you get the ore out of the mine?
   A: By truck to the surface, then extract the minerals. What's left goes to the tailings dam. As much water as possible gets recovered from there for reuse in the process.

4. Q: What is the target market for the concentrates?
   A: We'll leave that up to the marketers. We produce the concentrates and the traders sell it, probably to Asia.
   Q: Where does lead get used?
   A: 80% of lead is used in car batteries.

5. Q: What percentage of the employees will be Namibians?
   A: 95% if we possibly can.

6. Q: What is the plan for the tailings after mine closure?
   A: This will be governed a bit what the Ministry (MET) requires, but generally we would cap it with waste rock (unprocessed marble). Design it into a contoured form that fits in with the environment. Waste rock is simply what hasn’t been processed and there may be sufficient to cover the tailings.

7. Q: If the old dam is going to be used, will it still be able to function properly?
   A: The tailing dam will be re-designed properly and we'll be using someone from Windhoek who specializes in such engineering and just use the existing tailings area for it.

8. Q: Lead is a dangerous metal. What protective measures will be used for the employees?
   A: In the mine water sprays are used to suppress dust, and extraction fans and bag filters. The same applies at the crusher, where water sprays are used. Dust masks and gloves will be provided to all employees. The process is a wet process which prevents dust, which is the dangerous part. Gloves and masks would be provided. Before eating or smoking all will be trained to wash hands. International standards will be applied. Employees would have blood tests before they start working and then regular checks during their employment to ensure that they are not being exposed to lead contamination.
9. Q: With regard to international standards what requirements do you have to follow?
   A: We will develop our own health and safety programme.
   Q: So the only rules and regulations you would follow are the ones already in place in Namibia.
   A: Yes, the Labour Act in Namibia includes occupational health and safety requirements.
   If lead levels in an individual's blood exceed standards, the employee can be removed from the mine for a period until his blood levels are returned to normal.

10. Q: The mine closed in 1992 due to a drop in commodity prices. What about the future?
    A: Lead & Zinc are going through a downturn at the moment. Our main commodity is zinc. Big mines are closing down nationally, so the price of zinc will probably go up soon.

11. Q: Given the 5 year span of the project will you recoup your outlay.
    A: Yes, mainly because a lot of the infrastructure is already there and it’s a small mine and won’t be very expensive to set up. It might also be a project that goes on for longer.

12. Q: The mine has lithops growing on it. Where are you going to move them to?
    A: As the mine layout is designed it is possible to keep them outside the working area, so that they don’t have to be moved.

13. Q: Water for the mine? Where will the pipeline be placed?
    A: It will probably follow the powerline, but subject to Namwater and Nampower regulations. It’s a small diameter pipe. Mr Christian asked for the Parks Department’s input on the best way to lay the line with the least damage to the environment.

14. Q: Have you considered using solar power?
    A: Yes we’ve considered that option for the day to day living requirements of people on the site such as showers, but solar power simply is not viable to run the large machinery required for mining.

15. Q: Could the lithops be moved to the Namibia Botanical Garden near Rossmund?
    A: That would certainly be a consideration, but it’s probably not necessary to move them.

16. Q: Is it helpful to use a flocculent to save on water? (to settle fine particles quicker)
    A: No, with this is a course milling, a flocculent wouldn’t be necessary.

17. Q: What chemical re-agents would you use?
    A: The traditional re-agents that are used for lead and zinc. All of them are hazardous and are very carefully handled. There’s an international HAZCHEM code that’s used.

18. Q: ErongoRED has said there will be sufficient power for Phase 1. Has Namwater confirmed that they can meet the demand?
    A: Namwater haven’t officially confirmed the availability of supply yet. NRR has received only verbal confirmation so far, but as Trekkopje Mine has scaled back considerably, there should be sufficient water.

19. Q: What will be the traffic impact?
    A: During the construction phase, which would be 6 months, there will be quite a bit of extra traffic, some heavy loads etc. But during mining operations, a bus twice a day will ferrying staff to and from the site, and two trucks a day carrying product to Walvis Bay, which can be scheduled to run during off-peak times.

20. Q: What soil type is under the existing tailings? What is the mine site layout and would there be any potential water runoff to the Swakop River?
    A: Basic mining principles are to prevent dirty water running offsite. CC showed the existing retention dams on these photos, from which water can evaporate. The host rock, marble, which is the main type of rock here, is not very permeable. SLR are doing a specialist study on groundwater and surface water and will make recommendations.
21. Q: Safety measures for after the mine has closed?
   A: The shafts would be backfilled and a concrete plug put in to prevent animals and people from going in. We don’t envisage making any new surface tunnels.

22. Q: Where would the money come from for the rehabilitation of site after closure?
   A: There is a site closure procedure. A percentage of money per ton of rock is put aside for closure, removal of infrastructure and rehabilitation. This item will be put into the feasibility study.

23. Q: You say the ore is transported damp?
   A: Shipping rules require compliance with a certain level of moisture content. There must be no dust.
   Q: You might want to include that in the proposal. You might also want to include an action plan for accidents or spillages.
   A: An Emergency Response Plan, yes, although most of the chemicals are transported in a dry form and then mixed on site.

24. Q: Rock fractures - would they allow for the contamination of the ground water?
   A: SLR is looking at that sort of thing and will provide a report. All the crushers and large machines are built on a special concrete base that doesn’t allow for spillages etc. to leak down into the groundwater and no re-agents are used in the mine, its all done above ground where it’s much easier to contain.

25. Q: How big is the water table?
   A: The mine is currently at 220m and there’s no significant water there at present. We’ve drilled down to 300m and there was no water present either. SLR will make recommendations to contain stormwater runoff.

26. Q: Copper sulphate – how will it be stored?
   A: In bags. It will only be taken out as needed and mixed in special mixing tanks. All this will take place indoors.

27. Q: Have you considered participation with Epangewu?
   A: Yes, possibly.

5. Way Forward & Closure

The next steps will be:

- Distribution of minutes,
- Any written submissions by end of June 2013
- At some stage a summary of Issues & Concerns,
- Groundwater monitoring and completion of the reports by SLR,
- A specialist study on air quality, and possibly existing soil contamination,
- Draft EIA Report,
- Further public meeting to present findings of the EIA,

An attendance register was kept and all were asked to provide their contact details therein. Any new Interested & Affected Parties (I&APs) can register with Maureen at Cell: 0813462020 or Email: maureen.fidler@gmail.com.

All attendees were thanked for their valuable input, and the meeting was closed.

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