

Private Bag X1, Pretoria, 0001  
Gauteng Province  
Republic of South Africa  
T: +27 (0)12 305 3222  
F: +27 (0)12 305 3200  
E: [info@nrwdi.org.za](mailto:info@nrwdi.org.za)



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<b>Enquiries:</b>	Mr Alan Carolissen
<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:Alan.Carolissen@nrwdi.org.za">Alan.Carolissen@nrwdi.org.za</a>
<b>Telephone:</b>	+27 (0) 12 305 6114
<b>Date:</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> June 2021

Dear Esteemed and Valued Stakeholder of the Vaalputs Public Safety Information Forum

## **CANCELLATION OF THE IN-PERSON VAALPUTS PUBLIC SAFETY INFORMATION FORUM (VPSIF) MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 2021**

President Ramaphosa announced on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021 that South Africa is currently facing a third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, with the number of daily new infections escalating from below 800 in early April to over 13,000 in the past week. The threat to health and lives is still increasing and resulting in more individuals becoming ill and some passing away.

It is up to every one of us to play our part to ensure that the spread and effects of the virus is limited as much as possible. We must abide by the COVID-19 protocols by wearing masks, maintaining our social distance from other people and sanitizing regularly. Although we find ourselves in the middle of winter, we need to ensure good ventilation when indoors or in public transport, for instance by opening windows.

The surge in new infections also requires that restrictions on the movement of persons and gatherings must be tightened. As a safety precautionary measures to contain the spread and infection rate of the COVID-19 virus, Vaalputs Management has therefore deemed it prudent and responsible to cancel the physical in-person Vaalputs Public Safety Information Forum (VPSIF) meeting that was scheduled to take place in June 2021.

Management has also assessed the option of conducting a virtual VPSIF meeting but due to the remoteness and the limited or non-existent Wi-Fi connectivity in the area, this option is not deemed feasible and viable because many of the communities surrounding Vaalputs will not be able to participate in such a virtual VPSIF meeting.

As an alternative to providing feedback on Vaalputs safety matters in either a physical or virtual meeting, Management opted to make the information available in hard copy format to all members of the Vaalputs Public Safety Information Forum meeting that was scheduled for June 2021. The information is attached for your perusal.

For those VPSIF members who may have access to internet facilities, the information is also available on the National Radioactive Waste Disposal Institute's website: [www.nrwdi.org.za](http://www.nrwdi.org.za)

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**Board of Directors:** Ms. Thandeka Zungu (Chairperson); Mr. Mogwera Khoathane (Deputy Chairperson); Dr. Kgaugelo Chiloane; Dr. Cornelius Ruiters; Ms. Leandra Vilakazi; Ms. Lerato Makgae; Mr. Trevor Mark Gordon; Mr. Alan Carolissen (acting CEO) \*; Mr. Justin Daniel (CFO)\* (\*Executive Directors).

Classification	Open
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Please feel free to contact Mr Marius Farmer: Manager Vaalputs or myself if you need any clarification and amplification on the attached information.

Thanking you in advance for your understanding and cooperation to fight the global health pandemic created by COVID-19 virus. In the words of our President "We are in this together, and it is by working together that we will prevail".

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A Carolissen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'A'.

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Mr. Alan Carolissen  
**Acting CEO: NRWDI**

# **VAAALPUTS PUBLIC SAFETY INFORMATION FORUM MEETING**

## **FEEDBACK TO STAKEHOLDERS**

**JUNE 2021 PHYSICAL MEETING CANCELLED**

**Alan Carolissen**  
**Acting Chief Executive Officer**

## PRESENTATION CONTENT

- **Vaalputs Operations**
- **Update on Vaalputs Nuclear Installation Licence Application by NRWDI**
- **COVID-19 Safety**
- **Concluding remarks**
- **Q&A**



## VAALPUTS OPERATIONS

- **Mr Marius Farmer has been appointed as Acting Manager: Vaalputs with effect of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 until further notice.**
- **Two Pre-shipment inspections were done at Koeberg and Necsa respectively for the quarter.**
- **Five (four metal and one concrete) waste shipments from Koeberg were received for disposal.**
- **One waste shipment (concrete waste packages) was received from Necsa.**
- **All waste packages complied with the Vaalputs Waste Acceptance Criteria for disposal.**



## VAALPUTS OPERATIONS

- **All waste packages were covered with screened clay to comply to NIL28 conditions.**
- **Statutory inspections were done on all statutory equipment. No non-compliances were identified.**
- **All quarterly environmental samples were taken as required by the Nuclear Licence conditions.**
- **All radiological measurements were done in accordance with RP programme.**
- **The NNR conducted their quarterly compliance assurance inspection from 15-18 April 2021.**

## VAALPUTS OPERATIONS

- **Cameras and alarm systems were upgraded.**
- **A backup power system was installed at the main gate in case of any power failure.**
- **Solar panels were installed as backup power for the security cameras.**
- **All firefighting equipment was inspected on a monthly basis by Vaalputs personnel.**
- **All statutory training for staff are up to date.**



# UPDATE ON VAALPUTS NUCLEAR INSTALLATION LICENCE APPLICATION

- **The NRWDI Nuclear Installation Licence application was published in the Government Gazette and 4 newspapers circulated within the Vaalputs communities and Northern Cape Province (i.e., the Gemsbok, the Diamond Field Advertiser, the Plattelander and the Namakwalander).**
- **Interested and affected parties had until 30 March 2021 to submit their written representations to the NNR.**
- **The NNR's response is expected within 90 days (end of June 2021)**



## COVID-19 SAFETY

- **Wear a mask that covers you nose and mouth.**
- **Keep a safe distance from others.**
- **Stay away form closed or crowed spaces.**
- **Wash your hands regularly with soap or sanitizer.**
- **Stay home if you are not feeling well.**
- **Stay home if you have been in direct/close contact with someone who tested Covid-19 positive (isolate for 10 days and monitor if you develop any symptoms).**

**STAY SAFE!**

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

- **NRWDI remains unwavering committed to fulfilling the vast expectations of South Africans that radioactive waste can be safely managed in a manner that meets or exceeds all applicable regulatory standards and requirements for protecting the health, safety and security of our people and the environment, both now and in the future.**
- **Our commitment is underpinned by the Bill of Rights, Section 24(b) of the Constitution of the Republic of South that states:**
  - “**Everyone has the right to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being; and to have the environment protected for the benefit of present and future generations through reasonable legislative and other measures”.**

**NRWDI**

NATIONAL RADIOACTIVE WASTE  
DISPOSAL INSTITUTE



**ANY QUESTIONS?**  
**All questions to be directed to:**

**[Alan.Carolissen@nrwdi.org.za](mailto:Alan.Carolissen@nrwdi.org.za)**

**or**

**[Cobus.Beyleveld@nrwdi.org.za](mailto:Cobus.Beyleveld@nrwdi.org.za)**

**or**

**[Marius.Farmer@necsa.co.za](mailto:Marius.Farmer@necsa.co.za)**

# THANK YOU.



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