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ESTABLISHING THE BOREHOLE DISPOSAL FACILITY – ANALYSIS OF GEOSCIENTIFIC DATA FOR CHOSEN SITE AT VAALPUTS

The borehole disposal concept entails the emplacement of solid or solidified radioactive waste in an engineered facility of relatively narrow inside diameter 260 mm bored and operated directly from the surface. The borehole disposal concept was developed through the collaboration between IAEA and Necsca and the project is currently in planning stage for implementation in South Africa. The country's current national radioactive waste disposal facility for low level waste is inherently suitable for the disposal of disused sealed radioactive sources. Previous studies conducted indicated that it may be more practical to have one security area. The studies further proposed that the disposal area for disused sealed radioactive sources be adjacent to the current security fence around the LLW disposal site. Due to recent climate changes this paper will assess whether it will be suitable to dispose the disused sealed radioactive sources along the periphery of the LLW disposal area. This will be achieved through the technical assessment using the existing information and analyzing the existing GEOSCIENTIFIC data.

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