

NERA Uranium Projects and Initiatives

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ABSTRACT

National Energy Resources Australia (NERA) is one of six Growth Centres established by the Australian Government under the Industry Growth Centres Initiative. NERA's role is to grow collaboration and innovation to assist the energy resources sector (including oil & gas, coal and uranium industries) manage cost structures and productivity, direct research to industry needs, deliver the future work skills required and promote fit-for-purpose regulation. NERA currently has two active collaboration projects with the Australia uranium industry.

The first project is a collaboration between Heathgate Resources, CSIRO and Boss Resources. Through a field trial at the Four Mile operations, the project participants aim to demonstrate the potential of CSIRO's Sensei™ technology as an accurate real-time groundwater monitoring system for ISR operations which is stable in low-pH conditions. The project will allow for more efficient, effective, economical and timely approaches to groundwater compliance monitoring in harsh environmental conditions.

The second project with Flinders University, BHP, Heathgate Resources, ARPANSA, ANSTO and JRHC Enterprises aims to optimise the regulatory framework by developing a better understanding of the radiological impacts of uranium mining on flora and fauna in Australia's arid environments. The results will generate data towards a national database, enabling companies required to undertake radiation risk assessments to compare to baseline Australian soil values.

This presentation will provide an update on both projects, their potential impact and how they will assist in improving the overall competitiveness of the Australia's uranium industry.