

# HUSAB URANIUM MINE TAILINGS PIPELINE

SWAKOPMUND, NAMIBIA



MINING CASE STUDY

## PROJECT

### TYPE OF FACILITY:

Mine Tailings Pipeline

### VICTAULIC SOLUTIONS:

Ease and Speed of Installation

Flexibility

Joint Deflection

Tight Construction Timeline

### OWNER:

Swakop Uranium

### CONTRACTOR:

CNPC (China Nuclear Power Company)

### ENGINEER/CONSULTANT:

Husab Joint Venture (AMEC & Bateman)

### COMPLETED DATE:

May 2016



When considering a pipe joining method for their 4 kilometer/2.5 mile long, 630 mm/24" OD HDPE tailings pipeline at Husab Uranium Mine, the Husab Joint Venture sought a solution that would allow for ease of future maintenance and a fast initial installation. Due to a tight project schedule, neither butt welding nor stub-and-flange systems were an option because of the long installation time required. Husab JV ultimately decided to use the Victaulic Refuse-to-Fuse™ Style 908 coupling for large diameter HDPE pipe.

Victaulic Style 908 couplings join HDPE pipe with a robust double-groove joint to ensure joint strength and integrity. By providing a strong joint rated above the pressure rating of the pipe that also allows for deflection at the joint, the Style 908 was the perfect solution for the long pipeline that snaked along the uneven terrain.

Compared to butt fusing or flanging the system, both of which require several pipe-end preparation steps to ensure proper joint integrity, the Refuse-to-Fuse™ system only requires squaring and grooving of the pipe ends before installation. Victaulic has developed a line of cut grooving tools for HDPE pipe sized 250-900 mm/8-36" that squares and grooves the pipe end in a single operation. It takes just minutes to prepare the end of an HDPE pipe, and the tool can be used both onsite or in an offsite shop.

As a mechanical joint that can be completely reused, the Husab JV realized the potential time and cost that could be saved during future maintenance. When pipe needs to be replaced due to abrasion, the same couplings can be reused. And because pipe end preparation is minimal, maintenance downtime can be reduced significantly.

The tailings pipeline at Husab Uranium was the first Style 908 630 mm/24" OD project installed globally.

## SPECIFICATIONS

SERVICES:	PIPE MATERIALS:	PIPE SIZE RANGE:
Tailings	HDPE	24"/630 mm

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