Australian Minister for Industry Ian Macfarlane and Northern Territory Minister for Mines and Energy Willem Westra van Holthe have released the terms of reference for a joint investigation and review into an incident involving the failure of a leach tank at Energy Resources of Australia’s (ERA) Ranger Uranium Mine on Saturday 7 December.

A taskforce, consisting of the regulatory authorities responsible for the mine, was immediately established to investigate.

The Terms of Reference outline the regulatory response to the incident, and will:

i) identify the immediate cause of the incident;

ii) examine the integrity of broader processing operations;

iii) identify any gaps in operating procedures or maintenance practices;

iv) undertake a comprehensive examination of corporate governance arrangements; and,

v) provide recommendations to the Commonwealth Minister for Industry and the Northern Territory Minister for Mines and Energy.

The Northern Territory will lead the investigation into the cause of the tank failure at Ranger, and an independent expert will review the broader integrity of the processing plant operations.

A representative of Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation, which represents the Mirarr traditional owners, will also be asked to participate in the taskforce.

The investigation and review will be rigorous, thorough and delivered in a timely manner.

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