
REPORT OF THE STRATFORD COAL MINE COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD THURSDAY 3RD MAY 2007

PRESENT: Mr K Latham (Chairperson), Mr T Dwyer, Mr N Bignell, Mr W Tomb, T Hutchings, J Benson, B Roberts (Environmental Health Officer) & G Wilcox (Director of Planning & Environment).

APOLOGIES: Cr G Slack, Cr J Henderson, Cr J Rosenbaum, Mr R Clarke, Mr J Sonnberg.

The meeting commenced at 4:30 pm with an inspection of the mine site.

CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

The minutes of the previous meeting held 8 February 2007 were confirmed.

MATTERS ARISING:

1. Newcastle University Letter

T Dwyer tabled a letter from Mr John Dugas of the University in response to the committee's request.

2. Statement of Environmental Effects - Duralie

T Dwyer tabled a copy of the SEE for Duralie. Further copies can be made available upon request to the mine. T Dwyer advised that there is no specific mention about the handling of rejects at Duralie, however discussions and advice from regulatory departments considered that the existing consent (based on volume) was considered adequate for the disposal of rejects into the Stratford Main Pit.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. Environmental Monitoring

The Committee reviewed the results of environmental monitoring for the previous period.

- Water quality remained relatively unchanged to previous results.
- Recorded dust depositions were up in January due to contamination.

- High Volume Dust Monitoring exceedance of NEPM 24 hr Average in January contributed to bushfire smoke within the valley.

2. Complaints

Three complaints were received during the reporting period. One (1) related to alleged coal deposits in a rainwater tank. Samples were taken and analysis revealed less than 1% coal present. Material resembled accumulation of dust.

Two complaints related to noise from mining operations. N Bignell confirmed noise from the stock pile dozer at that location. The complaints were investigated with an agreement to undertake noise monitoring on the property. When available the results can be provided at an upcoming meeting.

3. Blasting

A total of eight blasts were conducted during the reporting period. All blasting activities were in accordance with licence conditions.

3. Noise Assessment Report

T Dwyer advised that the Stratford Coal Mine and Bowens Road North Mine noise emissions were below the daytime, evening and night time noise criteria at all monitoring locations under the prevailing weather conditions, during the Environmental Noise Level Survey that took place from 13th to 16th March 2007. Extrapolation of attended monitoring results at Blanch location indicates that a potential noise exceedance of 1dB(A) occurred at Craven Village.

5. Mine Progress

T Hutchings provided an update on the progress of the mine. He advised that it was business as usual until further advised regarding the Xstrata bid.

T Hutchings advised that trucks in the new fleet are significantly smaller in size and noise (106 dBA) compared to the previous larger trucks (116dBA).

6. Other Matters

W Tomb on behalf of a resident raised concern about the future of Craven village with regard to mining extensions.

T Dwyer advised that preliminary investigations may lead to proposed extensions south and that if and when an application is lodged Craven may fall into a voluntary acquisition zone.

T Dwyer reinforced that the mine only acquires properties as they come onto the market or are directly approached and that this no way restricts the resident's rights to express concern over noise or any other issue.

G Wilcox advised that the future of Craven has been planned for quite some time by Council. The village and its surrounds were zoned 1 (a) rural in the Gloucester Local Environmental Plan 2000. In this zone dwellings are only

permitted on properties with an area of at least 100 hectares. As such over time the village and its surrounds will become rural farm land.

7. Meeting Times

With the conclusion of daylight savings the committee agreed to change the meeting time to 4 pm as to allow sufficient light for an inspection of the mine.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6:00pm.

NEXT MEETING: To be held 2nd August 2007, 4:00pm at Stratford office.