
REPORT OF THE STRATFORD COAL MINE COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD THURSDAY 1 MAY 2008

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

APOLOGIES: Cllr G Slack & Mr W Williams.

The meeting commenced at 4:00 pm with an inspection of the mine site.

CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

The minutes of the previous meeting held 7 February 2008 were confirmed.

MATTERS ARISING:

1. Bowens Road Diversion

J Sonnberg advised that approval has been obtained from Gloucester Council subject to conditions. Geotechnical investigations are currently being undertaken and Ditchfield have been engaged to provide a costing.

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.
- Some fluctuations due to recent rainfall events.

2. Complaints

Three complaints were received during the reporting period.

Two complaints related to train noise. One related to drilling noise. All complaints were investigated and discussed with complainant.

T Dwyer advised that a further complaint was received after the preparation of the report from Mr R Clarke. Mr Clarke raised concern over lighting at the Bowens Road crossing and the condition of the Roseville crossing.

T Dwyer advised that Townsend Electrical have been engaged to repair lighting at Bowens Road crossing and further measures may need to be implemented to identify any faulty lighting i.e security guard checks.

3. Blasting

No blasting was undertaken at Bowens Road North. Ten blasts were undertaken at Roseville during the reporting period. No exceedances were recorded.

4. Noise Assessment Report

T Dwyer advised that according to the report provided the noise emissions produced by the Stratford Coal Operations did not cause an adverse impact on any of the Stratford/Craven residential/rural landholders during the Environmental Noise Level Assessment conducted from 11th to 14th March 2008.

5. Mine Progress

J Sonnberg advised of a gradual reduction in mining operations at Bowens Road North. He advised that there is approximately 200,000 tonnes of coal to be extracted from the Roseville Extension and that work continues on the part 3A application. He also advised that a media release regarding the Clareval Seam was issued today. Available for viewing on company's website.

6. Exploration Licence Application 2635

T Dwyer tabled a summary document with map regarding the recently approved exploration licence and indicated that as part of the approval a Community Consultative Committee is to be developed.

T Dwyer suggested that this committee become or form part of the Community Consultative Committee for the Exploration Licence. The committee discussed various implications of such a decision.

G Wilcox advised that each committee member should be formally advised in writing of all consent provisions relating to the exploration licence and a decision made as to whether taking on such a role is in their best interests.

7. Stratford Stockpile Modification

T Dwyer tabled a preliminary plan of a proposed Stratford stockpile expansion. Approval will be sought for a modification with the proposal to be advertised accordingly.

The committee were advised that one stockpile dozer will remain in operation and the expansion would not result in an additional dozer onsite.

8. Other Matters

Former Chairperson Appreciation

R Clarke wished to recognise former Councillor Jim Henderson's efforts in chairing this committee during his time. A request to Gloucester Coal was made to send an appreciation letter to Mr Henderson.

Water Management

T Dwyer advised that during the significant rainfall events a review of water management at both Duralie and Stratford sites is being undertaken. Broad concepts are being investigated at this stage with the possibility of pumping excess water from Duralie to the Stratford site.

Tailings Disposal

N Bignell expressed concern over the build up of beech material in the main pit as a result of tailings disposal.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 5:50pm.

NEXT MEETING: To be held 7th August 2008, 4:00pm at Stratford Office.