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# **REPORT OF THE STRATFORD COAL MINE COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD THURSDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2008**

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**PRESENT:** Clr G Slack (Chairperson), Clr J Rosenbaum, Mr R Clarke, Mr K Latham, Mr J Benson, Mr N Bignell, Mr J Sonnberg, Mr T Hutchings, B Roberts (Environmental Health Officer) & G Wilcox (Director of Planning & Environment).

**APOLOGIES:** Clr J Henderson, Mr T Dwyer, Mr W Tomb, 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 1 November 2007 were confirmed.

## **MATTERS ARISING:**

N Bignell enquired as to the status of the rusting vehicle report.

J Sonnberg advised that the vehicle has not been brought to the site to date.

## **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.

One related to blasting from mining operations at the Clarke residence. The blast was recorded at 115.4 dBI at the Clarke property. As a result blast technique has been reviewed and a new more conservative design is being implemented. The committee further discussed the exceedance with regard to its reporting requirements.

One complaint related to train movements at Craven. The complainant was contacted by Mr T Dwyer and the matter discussed.

The other was a noise complaint. Mr T Dwyer has returned call but yet to contact the complainant to discuss the details of the complaint.

### **3. Blasting**

As discussed earlier an exceedance of the 115dbL criteria was recorded at the Clarke's property on 23 November 2007 of 115.4dbL.

### **4. Noise Assessment Report**

J Benson advised that the Stratford Coal Mine and Bowens Road North Mine noise emissions caused two (2) exceedances of criteria. The exceedances were due to the Duralie train in the mine loop undergoing dumping activities.

At all other times noise levels were below the daytime, evening and nighttime noise criteria at all monitoring locations under the prevailing weather conditions, during the Environmental Noise Level Survey that took place from 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> September 2007.

### **5. Mine Progress**

T Hutchings provided an update on the mine progress. He advised that due to the port and shipping issues coal has been stored in stockpiles at various locations onsite. Anticipated that it could be stored onsite for up to 18 months.

T Hutchings advised that the stockpiles are regularly monitored for temperature to detect any risk of spontaneous combustion.

### **6. Bowens Road Diversion**

The committee were advised that a development application has been submitted to Council and will be considered on Wednesday 20 February 2008.

R Clarke advised the committee that the proposed diversion would be a major inconvenience to many residents and requested that his objection to the proposal be noted.

N Bignell, on behalf of W Williams, advised that the mine should not be asked to upgrade Wheatley's Lane given the lack of work and maintenance conducted by Council in the past.

### **7. Part 3A Application**

J Benson tabled a newsletter that provides an update on the proposed future development plans, consultation and assessment process for the Stratford Coal Mine and Duralie Coal Mine operations.

J Rosenbaum enquired as to why “Stratford Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee” appeared under the newsletter heading.

J Sonnberg explained that it was a newsletter developed for the committee, hence the title, and by no means is endorsed by the committee.

The committee requested that the word ‘for’ be inserted in upcoming editions.

## **8. Other Matters**

Representatives of Stratford Coal presented an overview of the company’s plans to allow for the continued operation and expansion of its activities.

G Wilcox advised that with the proposed application to the Department of Planning it would be likely that this committee would be abandoned and a new committee be appointed by Ministerial direction.

J Sonnberg tabled copies of three (3) letters to the committee. As follows:

- 1) Barrington-Gloucester-Stroud Preservation Alliance
- 2) The Honourable George Souris M.P
- 3) Gloucester Coal Ltd

The contents of the letters were noted by the committee.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6:20pm.

**NEXT MEETING:** To be held 1<sup>st</sup> May 2008, 4:00pm at Stratford Office.