
**MINUTES OF THE STRATFORD COAL MINE
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD THURSDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2009**

PRESENT: J. Henderson, T. Teersteeg, G. Wilcox, J. Sonnberg, J. Benson, W. Tomb, N. Bignell, B. Williams, K. Latham, P. Greenwood, R. Clarke.

APOLOGIES: R. Stimson, G. Summerhaze (Dept I&I)

The meeting commenced at 5.40pm following an inspection of the Duralie and Stratford mine sites.

CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

The minutes of the previous meeting held 6 August 2009 were confirmed.

(Resolved B. Williams/N. Bignell)

MATTERS ARISING:

1. **Roof water Testing at Stratford:** - Gloucester Coal had issued advice that it was not prepared to undertake this testing. Councillor representatives explained the concerns raised by the community at its meetings and the request to test the water or dust composition and if it impacted on tank water. The meeting was informed that dust samples have been taken in the past, which underwent petrographic analysis, and the results did not indicate there were any problems. Further J. Sonnberg advised the meeting that they had previously tested tanks on request. J. Benson advised that dust samples from the gauges could be provided to the committee for next meeting.

It was requested that the company review the tests of coal to advise if the coal contains any heavy metals. It was indicated that these tests have been carried out before. Further that testing of coal in the Hunter Valley has not shown any heavy metal association.

Recommendation:

The Committee resolved that the Company provide dust deposition breakdown (Petrographic Analysis Results) for the previous twelve months to November to the committee. Moved W. Tomb / N. Bignell.

2. **Glen Road Repair Works**- the company advised that all repair works to the property have been completed.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. Environmental Report

James Benson presented and discussed graphs on dust, E. C AND T.S.S readings, Environmental monitoring and complaints received as submitted to the committee.

Items Raised:

- The increase in light emissions from the mine site – the committee was advised that lighting consultants (Wadco) are to conduct an assessment of the lighting and prepare a new light design. The company would advise them of light increase and ask them to look at design to reduce light visibility and atmospheric glare.
- Roseville West pit had its first blast – no exceedance or complaints received.
- Noise Complaint 21st July 2009 – complaint arose due to work on Glen Road by heavy machinery on the Sunday morning at 7am. The company advised it would take back to contractors.

2. Mine Operations

Jim Sonnberg gave a general overview of operations, the company is selling coal to Newcastle (Blue Scope Steel), the company is undertaking exploration to prove reserves around Stratford, along the Clare vale seam and Roseville pit areas and at Duralie.

3. Contacting Gloucester Coal as a Land holder

In relation to the requirements to contact landholders for fire notification, animal control or other reasons, the general contact should be to the occupier of the land or to Jim Sonnberg if the land is not occupied.

4. 30% Sale of Gloucester Coal by Noble Group

Question was raised as to the sale of 30% of Gloucester coal by Noble Group to a Chinese company. J.Sonnberg advised that he believed it was true.

5. Void Management Plan

The question was raised as to the preparation of a void management plan as it was due in September 2009.

J.Benson advised that the Life of Rejects Management Plan incorporates a void management plan and is in discussion with the State agency (Industry and Investment).

6. pH of Beached Reject Materials

Question was raised as to the pH of the beached reject materials. J. Benson advised the pH at the water level was pH 2.6 and in material greater than three months old it was pH 3.6

The committee expressed concern about the beaching of reject materials due to the Duralie waste materials and potential acid forming materials (PAF). It was further expressed that the PAF is required to be placed under water in accordance with the approval and that this has not been happening for an extended period.

Concern was also expressed that the committee was advised that the proposed plan to incorporate 2% lime stone in layers of beached material was not going to allow chemical interaction with the PAF material and acid could form. (Note: The beached area was visited as part of the site inspection and a limited amount of lime stone had been spread which appeared to be well below the 2% per tonne required). The committee had previously been advised that this modification had been submitted refer August 2009 minutes. The committee discussed the need to ensure adequate mixing of lime stone with PAF material and suggested that it be incorporated at the pump from the Washery to aid mixing in the pipe line before placement on the beach.

Recommendation:

That Council on behalf of the committee write to the relevant government agencies to express concern over the non compliance with the conditions of consent to place PAF reject materials under water and that the Council write to the company and the relevant state agencies to advise that the committee would like any approval for variation to ensure that adequate mixing of PAF material and lime stone is undertaken prior to the placement of rejects above water level.

Moved: K. Latham / N. Bignell

7. Site Visit Washery

The next meeting will commence with a site visit to the Washery plant.

8. Committee Funding

The committee discussed to funding conditions under the conditions of consent.

Recommendation:

That the company make available \$2,500 to the committee for future use.

Moved: R. Clarke / P. Greenwood

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.40pm.

NEXT MEETING: To be held on **Thursday 4th February 2010** at 3:30pm at Stratford Office, for the Washery site visit.