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Austar Coal Mine

Community Consultative Committee Meeting Minutes

Location: LTCC Meeting Room, Austar CHPP
 Time: 9:30am – 10:25am
 Date: 11 February 2015

Name	Representative
Margaret MacDonald-Hill (MMH)	Independent Chairperson
Alan Smith (AS)	Community Representative
David Holmes (DH)	Community Representative
Peter Sturrock (PS)	Community Representative
Councillor Jeff Maybury (JM)	Cessnock City Council Representative
Greg Pawley (GP)	Austar Coal Mine
Gary Mulhearn (GM)	Austar Coal Mine
Jack Potter (JP)	Austar Coal Mine
Apologies	
Nil	
Copy of minutes	
Councillor Bob Pynsent	Mayor of Cessnock City Council
Mr Joel Fitzgibbon MP	Federal Member for Hunter
Mr Clayton Barr	State Member for Cessnock
Mr Howard Reed	NSW Department of Planning & Environment
Ms Valerie Phillips	Librarian, Cessnock City Council

Item	Issue	Action	Date
1	Welcome		
	MMH – Welcomed the Committee and opened the meeting.		
2	Declaration of Interests		
	MMH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of the Mine Subsidence Board • Independent Chair of numerous Community Consultative Committee's 		
3	Confirmation of Previous Minutes		
	The minutes of the previous meeting were considered representative of that meeting. DH moved, AS seconded.		
4	Business Arising from Previous Minutes		
	At previous CCC meeting DH asked if the mine owned houses in the Stage 2 area had been subject to a pre mining inspection. GM – Stated that pre mining inspections had not been required on mine owned properties. DH – Queried why inspections had not been conducted. GM – Stated that the Mine Subsidence Board would not undertake repairs on mine owned properties, therefore inspections were deemed unnecessary.		
5	Correspondence		
	Nil		
6	Current Operations, Environmental Monitoring Update, Complaints		
	GP – provided an update on current underground operations. <u>Current Operations</u> Underground <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longwall A8 commenced on 16 June 2014. Approximately 1030m of retreat to 10 February 2014. • Development mining recommenced in 400 mains area near finishing end of LWA8 in December 2014. GM – provided an update on current surface operations. CHPP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normal operations occurring. 		

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	<p>Kitchener SIS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehab works nearing completion to stabilise disturbed parts of site. All areas have been topsoiled. Grass is establishing in areas seeded in December 2014. <p>Exploration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two boreholes commenced in 2014 have been completed. • Adjacent landholders were notified of exploration program. Some temporary noise barriers have been incorporated into drill site to reduce noise impacts. • Exploration program is planned to continue in 2014 to 2016. Austar will be consulting with landholders regarding access for exploration. <p>Environmental Incidents 12 November 2014 to 11 February 2015</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 x noise exceedance • 2 x water discharges <p>8 December 2014 – Kitchener SIS Storage Dam Overflow</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The incident involved the lower water storage dam at the SIS discharging over its lowest point into Black Creek, due to a greater than design rainfall event. • A total of 146mm fell over the period 3 to 8 December 2014 prior to the incident. • The approved 90th percentile, 5 day rainfall design is 42.8mm. • Actions taken: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reported to EPA ○ Water pumping of sediment basin and storage dams, which had commenced on 4 December 2014, continued until basin and dams were empty ○ Incident report provided to EPA <p>20 January 2015 – Reportable noise exceedance CHPP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measured noise level at NMC1 was 2 dB below the noise limit. • The noise classified as low frequency per NSW Industrial Noise Policy, which attracts a 5dB modifying factor. Assessable noise was then 3 dB greater than the EPL LA90 noise limit. This was reported to the EPA as a potential exceedance after receiving monitoring results, and confirmed to the EPA as an exceedance after weather data confirmed noise limit were applicable on 20 January 2015. • Follow up monitoring 5 February 2015 complied with noise limits. 		

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	<p>27 January 2015 – Stormwater Discharge at CHPP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The event involved a brief discharge of stormwater from the rail spur drainage system to Bellbird Creek. • CHPP site experienced an intense 15 minute rainfall event where 10.2mm was recorded in 15 minutes at a rate of up to 85mm/hour. Flash flooding was reported in Cessnock during this event. • Excessive runoff from high intensity rainfall caused a ROM catch drain to be overtopped, with the resulting flow causing the ROM drain wall to be eroded. • A portion of the ROM catch drain stormwater flow appears to have then entered the rail spur and flowed along its drainage system. • This volume combined with the existing rail spur drainage appears to have been greater than the capacity of the rail spur drainage system. A portion of the resulting overland flow passed along the rail line and briefly discharged into Bellbird Creek (approx 20 mins). • This was immediately reported to EPA. The ROM drain was repaired and an overflow channel installed to prevent reoccurrence. <p>GM – provided update on environmental monitoring</p> <p><u>Environmental Monitoring Update</u></p> <p>Subsidence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent monitoring survey undertaken in September – November 2014. Graphs of subsidence measurement presented. • Subsidence results are within predicted levels, currently at approximately 250-300mm for LWA7 and approximately 450mm for LWA8. • 450mm maximum subsidence predicted at completion of LWA7 and 1160mm at completion of LWA8. <p>Air Quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual average PM₁₀ was well below Annual Average Maximum Criteria at all locations in 2014. • Annual average deposited dust was below Annual Maximum Criteria for all locations in 2014. • Graphs of air quality monitoring data were presented. <p>Water Quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pH and EC graphs were presented. • pH and EC monitoring within Environment Protection Licence limits. • General trends in Bellbird Creek, Quorrobolong Creek and 		

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	<p>Coney Creek presented.</p> <p>Groundwater Monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groundwater levels were presented on a graph. • Slight rise in groundwater levels in alluvium and fractured rock since rainfall in December 2014. <p>Noise</p> <p>Since last CCC meeting (12 November 2014 to 11 February 2015)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measured noise was compliant with noise limits from 12 November 2014, December 2014, January 2015 and to 11 February 2015. • On 20 January 2015, measured noise levels at location NMC1 were 2 dB below the noise limit. However, noise classified as low frequency, which attracts a 5 dB modifying factor per Industrial Noise Policy, resulting in 3 dB greater than the EPL LA90 noise limit. Reported to the EPA and DPE. • Follow-up monitoring 5 February 2015 measured noise levels at NMC1 complied with the noise limit. EPA and DPE to be advised of result. • Consultation with DPE and EPA on monitoring results and low frequency further investigations ongoing. <p>Vibration</p> <p>Since last CCC meeting (6 November 2014 to 4 February 2015)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor V7 – 345 Quorrobolong Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 15 events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 14 events <3mm/sec ▪ 1 events >3 & <6mm/sec • Monitor V8 – 159 Coney Creek Lane <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 44 events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 31 events <3mm/sec ▪ 10 events >3 & <6mm/sec ▪ 3 events >6 & <10mm/sec <p>Note: all events were below the level where cosmetic structural damage may occur of 15mm/sec.</p> <p>DH – Asked if there had been any vibration enquires or complaints in relation to earthquakes.</p> <p>GM – Stated that there had not been.</p> <p><u>Community Complaints</u></p> <p>Since last CCC meeting (12 November 2014 to 11 February 2015)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25/11/14 – EPA complaint by resident located on Kendall Rd in 		

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	<p>relation to noise generated by the CHPP on the evening of the 22/11/14.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CHPP Manager investigated and no unusual activities were occurring at the time of the complaint, a train was being loaded. The complaint description and timing indicated a train locomotive may be reason for call. Train provider was receptive to discussion on noise control for locomotive. E&C Manager provided complainant with investigation details and details of operations. <p>DH – Asked if the train operators could do anything to reduce train noise.</p> <p>GM – Stated that Austar would follow up with the train operator, Pacific National.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 10/12/14 – EPA complaint in relation to dust generated by haul trucks transporting reject to Aberdare Emplacement Area. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Austar informed EPA that a water cart is utilised to minimise dust generated by reject haul trucks, whenever hauling is occurring and it is not raining. The water cart was operating during the period relevant to the complaint. ● 16/12/14 - EPA complaint in relation to odour, resident thought was potentially spontaneous combustion. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Austar investigated the complaint and determined that no spontaneous combustion was occurring and informed the EPA. ● 17/12/14 – Complaint in relation to Vibration through to be from blasting on surface. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ E&C Manager called complainant to explain that no blasting occurs on the surface at Austar, and how mining extraction/subsidence were likely causing the vibration and the monitoring that Austar conducts for vibration events. Referred the complainant to vibration monitoring data on Austar website and offered to meet to discuss. ● 22/12/14 – EPA complaint in relation to dust generated by haul trucks transporting reject to Aberdare Emplacement Area. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The complainant was inappropriately walking on the 	<p>GM to discuss potential for train noise mitigation with Pacific National.</p>	<p>29/04/15</p>

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	<p>Austar haul road at time of complaint.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Austar informed EPA that a water cart is utilised to minimise dust generated by reject haul trucks, whenever hauling is occurring and it is not raining. ○ The water cart was operating during the period relevant to the complaint. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 8/01/15 – Complaint in relation to noise generated by rattling of haul trucks transporting reject to Aberdare Emplacement Area. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Repairs and modification made to improve haul road surface. ○ Trucking contractor to inspect trucks to identify any potentially rattling parts. 		
7	General Business		
	<p>Independent Environmental Audit 2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Audit is required by Project Approval 08_0111, and Development consent DA29/95. ● Audit team led by Trevor Brown of Trevor Brown and Associates has been endorsed by Secretary of DPE. ● Audit commenced on 10 November 2014 for compliance with conditions of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Project Approval 08_0111 ○ Development Consent DA29/95 ○ Environment Protection Licence 416 ○ Mining Lease. ● Audit report is in preparation. <p>Annual Environmental Management Report 2013-2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Department of Planning and Environment and Department of Trade and Investment – Division of Resources and Energy both reviewed the AEMR and indicated that Austar AEMR 2013-2014 is satisfactory. <p>Environmental Instrumentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continuous dust monitor installed north of CHPP (TEOM) to monitor PM10 dust emissions ● Monitoring well (MB01) installed in fractured rock aquifer in 	<p>GM to distribute Audit Report to CCC.</p>	<p>29/04/15</p>

Item	Issue	Action	Date
	<p>Stage 3 mining area</p> <p>AS – Asked why MB01 was located where it is.</p> <p>GM – Stated that the MB01 was located to monitor groundwater above the early Stage 3 longwall panels.</p> <p>Community Sponsorships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitchell/Grant Families fund – D Crew donation • Kids with Cancer Foundation – CHPP crew donation • Hunter Valley Domestic Violence Group – Jodies Place – B crew Donation • Cessnock District Rescue Squad – E crew donation • Cessnock Library – Summer reading club • Cessnock & District Agricultural – Sponsorship of Annual Show <p>Other</p> <p>PS – Stated that a floral display had been placed on a telegraph pole on Quorrobolong Road, potentially indicated that an accident had occurred in the area. The telegraph pole had previously been noted as being in a dangerous location by the CCC.</p> <p>GM – Stated that Austar would check on status of telegraph pole and safety barrier</p> <p>JM – Stated that Cessnock City Council was holding a CSG forum on the 26th February at 1pm at the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre and that any interested CCC members were invited to attend.</p>	GM to investigate and report back to CCC.	29/04/15
8	Next Meetings		
	<p>Next Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 29 April 2015 – 9:30am LTCC Office, Austar CHPP • Other meeting dates were proposed for 2015. 		
10	Meeting Closed		
	MMH – Declared the meeting closed at 10:25am and thanked all for attending.		

Recorded: Jack Potter 11/02/2014

Confirmed: To be confirmed at next meeting

Chairperson – Margaret MacDonald-Hill