
**MINUTES OF THE ASHTON COAL PROJECT
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 13 JULY 2010
1:00PM - ASHTON COAL PROJECT SITE OFFICE**

ATTENDEES:

Steve Ernst	(SE)	Community Representative
Peter Barton	(PB)	Company Rep (General Manager)
Lisa Richards	(LR)	Company Rep (Environment & Community Relations Mgr)
Scotney Moore	(SM)	Observer (Environmental Co-ordinator)
Cassandra Ferguson		Minute Taker

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE CHAIRPERSON (PETER BARTON CHAIRED THE MEETING IN THE ABSENCE OF A SINGLETON COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON)

The Chairman opened the meeting at 1.15pm.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from John McInernery & Thelma DeJong Community Representatives, Brian Thomas/Sarah Roberts and Godfrey Adamwaithe, Singleton Council.

Note: The meeting had been rescheduled previously to try and accommodate people attending. Shortly prior to the meeting it was known that there may not be a Singleton Council Representative's and there were some community representatives unavailable, but an alternate meeting time that fitted with the routine CCC meeting schedule could not be confirmed. It was also expected that there would be at least 2 community representatives in attendance so a decision was made to run the meeting.

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST BY COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Nil declared.

4. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes from the meeting held on 13 March 2010 were accepted as a true and accurate record:

Moved: Steve Ernst

Seconded: Lisa Richards

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Action items for last meeting

There were no actions items for follow up from the CCC meeting held in March.

6. REPORTS AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

6.1 OVERVIEW OF OPERATIONS

South East Open Cut

LR & PB provided an update on the South East Open Cut (SEOC) Project approval process.

SE highlighted he had been approached by other residents of Camberwell asking for updates on Ashton Coal operations, specifically more information regarding the closure of the NEOC & the SEOC project schedule.

SE asked PB if ACOL had received any indication of the project receiving fast track approval. PB replied ACOL has been advised by the Department of Planning (DoP) no approvals will be released until the Cumulative Impacts Study (CIS) has been finalised. LR advised SE a decrease in dust levels in the village is expected to occur with the closure of the NEOC and commissioning of the SEOC.

SE asked about if there will be noise attenuation of mining equipment for the SEOC. LR advised yes there would be. PB added works has already commenced on fitting out existing equipment. SE asked if there was any guarantee that contracting companies equipment used on site will be fitted with noise attenuation equipment. LR replied no however new ACOL trucks will be fitted.

SE asked if the road design for access on the New England Highway for the SEOC had been finalised. PB replied designs have been done and the Roads & Traffic Authority had provided feedback, however the design will not be approved until development consent is received. SE asked who would be completing the road construction work PB replied tender pre-qualifications have been received by ACOL and a decision will be made once consent is received. SE asked PB for an estimate of how long after consent is received are roadworks planned to commence. PB & LR replied 6-8 weeks depending on subordinate approvals & archaeological clearances.

Open Cut

PB provided an overview of current Open Cut operations. Mining of the Lower Liddell & Barrett seam has been delayed. Slot mining methods are currently being utilised in the Open Cut. This has been approved by the Department of Industry & Investment (DI&I) as appropriate for managing mining impacts on Glennies Creek Road. SE asked how the delay of the SEOC will impact on ACOL delivery contracts. PB advised in the first quarter of 2011 there may be no coal produced. PB advised that ACOL has quarterly contracts and are negotiated on a regular basis. SE enquired about the 200,000 tonnes of coal that were sterilized when movement started to occur along the highwall. PB replied this coal had been sterilized. SE asked if there is a minor orientation change and would this affect the slope. PB advised the slope will not change & backfilling of the overburden on toe is commencing to assist stabilization.

Underground

PB provided an update of the underground operations. Mining in Longwall 5 South have been completed and operations have now moved into Longwall 6 South. Scheduled completion date for Longwall 6 South is November 2010.

6.2 ENVIRONMENTAL

DUST MONITORING

LR provided an overview of the dust monitoring sites and results for the three month period. Ashton Coal did not exceed their PM₁₀ criteria during the quarter.

BLASTING

A total of 100 blasts were conducted environmental year to date.

WATER MONITORING

LR provided an overview of the surface and ground water monitoring results for the three month period.

NOISE MONITORING

Statutory noise monitoring was undertaken on the 10 May and there were no exceedances of the Ashton criteria.

REHABILITATION

SE asked LR when the rehabilitation for the NEOC would be completed LR replied there is approximately 12 months of earthworks to be completed. PB added depending on the SEOC progress ACOL may utilise open cut production staff to assist in progressing rehabilitation earthworks. LR added it will be 15 years before the tailings are capped off, scheduled to occur in 2023.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

LR & PB discussed details of the earth tremors experienced on the 20. These occurred on Sunday the 20 June. Blast monitors recorded vibration at the Village & Church monitors at 05:44am at 17.51mm/s & 14.81mm/s respectively. A second tremor was also recorded at 08:47am recording vibration of 8.19mm/s at the village and 5.57mm/s at the church monitors.

SE asked if there is a potential for any spontaneous combustion issues to affect the village. LR replied that ACOL do not have any issues with spontaneous combustion.

MEETING CLOSE 2:05 PM

9. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 28 September 2010 @ 1.00PM

10. SITE INSPECTION OF THE OPERATIONS – Not conducted

11. DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED -

Longwall 4 End of Panel Report
2009-2010 Quarter 1 & 2 Dust Report (copies were sent out via mail to CCC members who were unable to attend the meeting)

MEETING CLOSED AT 2.05PM

ACTION ITEMS

Nil