

**MINUTES OF THE ASHTON COAL PROJECT
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 2 MARCH 2004
1.00PM - ASHTON COAL PROJECT SITE OFFICE**

ATTENDEES:

Cr Fred Harvison	Singleton Council (Chairman)	FH
Fiona Scanes	Singleton Council	FS
Deidre Oloffson	Community Representative	DO
Thelma DeJong	Community Representative	TD
Tanya Hassett	Community Representative	TH
John McNerney	Community Representative	JM
Monique McDonald	Department of Mineral Resources	MM
Ian Callow	Company Representative (Project Manager)	IC
Colin Davies	Company Representative (Environmental Officer)	CD
Sherry Russell	Minute Taker	

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE CHAIRPERSON

Meeting was opened by the Chairman at 1.08pm. Council is to forward a copy of the CCC guidelines to JM and TH. Chairman gave a brief overview of the role of the Committee. It was acknowledged that JM has replaced Neville Smiles as a member of the Committee.

2. APOLOGIES

Brian Thomas

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST BY COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

No pecuniary interests were declared.

3.1 MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: *Thelma DeJong*

Seconded: *Deidre Olofsson*

DO raised the issue of complaint forms being issued to local residents. CD gave an overview of the complaint process. MM explained the difference between a complaint and enquiry – suggested guidelines be put place. CD advised these are covered by our current procedures. DO asked question if complainant gets copy of complaint form. How do residents know complaint registered? It was agreed that a copy of the written complaint would be issued to the complainant if they so requested. Complaint process to be addressed in next issue of the Newsletter.

4. REPORTS AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

4.1 FROM PROJECT MANAGEMENT (EG. PROJECT OVERVIEW, STATUS, CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE)

Ownership:

Still talking to residents regarding purchasing of property.

Open Cut Mine

Commenced on 17 January 2004. Three hydraulic excavators – seven 630E trucks – Total fleet 10 trucks – 7 x 150t and 3 x 190t. End April 04 plant fully operational – HWE to achieve full production by end July 04. HWE reviewing their blasting requirements. One exceedance in blasting has occurred. ACOL working with HWE to achieve blasting goals.

Subsidence Effects on Bowmans

Underground mining to commence in year 2 ie. end of 2005.

Facilities

Washplant is 85% complete. Construction to be completed end March / early April 2004. Coal production commence within 2 weeks. Testing / commissioning to commence late March / early April.

IC gave overview of the contractors' roles and responsibilities.

IC advised revised EPL regarding noise limits had been granted. Revised EPL valid until 8 March 2004, after this time operational goals come back into force. Continuing work on the Glennies Creek road noise bunds will be dependent upon wind direction after 8 March 04.

TH suggested the construction noise issue be noted in the next issue of the Newsletter to advise residents of the allowance of higher construction noise levels which are valid until 8 March 2004.

JM raised issue of safety and increase in traffic along Glennies Creek Road. IC will raise issue of speed limit with Council.

Track possession

IC advised boom gates on railway crossing during track possession on 20/21 March 04. Employment – shift relief positions required. IC advised preference for local residents to be used for these positions. HWE also have a national traineeship program in place for apprentices.

Water – pipeline approval granted by Council – pipeline to Glennies Creek Mine. Water licences are being converted to low industrial. ACOL use Glennies Creek Mine water. CD advised no mine water has been discharged off site.

4.2 FROM ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER (EG. RECENT MONITORING DATA, PROCESS FOR RESPONSES TO COMPLAINTS)

Annual Environmental Monitoring Report (AEMR) has been issued to all Committee members. MM addressed the meeting and provided an outline of the requirements of the AEMR. Monitoring and complaint information will be listed in the AEMR this year. CD advised EPA are notified of complaints as part of the annual EPA return.

TH raised the issue of cars entering the property in Camberwell where the environmental monitoring is located – requested that cars slow down.

JM queried location of dust monitor (one on JR property). IC advised TEOMS located with regard to wind direction and EPA location requirements. TH asked question of how ACOL know which dust is theirs. ACOL have monitors on both sides of the mine to measure levels from Ashton operations. Results from dust monitors will be provided at next meeting.

CD gave an overview of the Real Time Environmental Monitoring system. CD offered to show committee members the system. CD advised if dust levels approach EPA goals then HWE modify their operation in accordance with the Air Quality Management Plan. IC advised if dust levels exceed – operations then cease. JM / DO queried the prevailing winds issue. TH suggested residents of the village contact the EPA to request more appropriate monitoring locations. TH raised the issue of blasting when prevailing winds blowing. This is being investigated to minimise impacts on Glennies Creek Road and the village.

CD tabled copies of the Management Plan summaries for each Committee member. Chairman suggested members review the summary of management plans with any queries to be raised at the next meeting.

DO asked when bund wall along Glennies Creek Road will be finished and also about landscaping. IC outlined overburden emplacement schedule.

DO tabled a document outlining some complaints that had been referred to her. This was discussed at length during the meeting. No names, addresses or time of complaint were supplied. This document is inconsistent with the accepted procedure for notification of complaints, however, action has been taken to address the issues raised. The Committee was advised that individual complainants should contact the mine directly at the time of the occurrence. Should any complainant require, a copy of the follow-up actions will be provided. Names and addresses remain confidential.

IC stated to the meeting that at this stage of the operation there will be no increase in working hours.

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

5.1 SECTION 94 CONTRIBUTIONS

Discussion took place regarding the distribution of moneys with regard to Section 94 Contributions. Community Representatives to liaise with residents and come back with suggestions for the next meeting. This issue will be included in the next Newsletter.

6. NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 29 June 2004 at 1.00pm.

7. SITE INSPECTION OF THE OPERATIONS

Site inspection took place at 3.35pm. TH unable to partake in site inspection.

MEETING CLOSED AT 4.30PM

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY
Complaint process to be addressed in next issue of the Newsletter.	ACOL
Make reference to noise limits in next Newsletter.	ACOL
Issue of consent with regard to Glennies Creek Road to be looked into and advised at next meeting.	ACOL
JMc queried location of dust monitors. Prevailing winds issue, determined by EPA.	ACOL to provide results from both monitors.
CCC members to contact ACOL immediately with regard to complaints.	CCC
MB suggested the hours of operation should be noted in the Newsletter	ACOL
Problems with wildlife ring ACOL – to be noted in the Newsletter	ACOL
Liaison with local residents with regard to ideas for distribution of Section 94 contribution monies (\$30,000 approx).	CCC Members
Section 94 Contribution notification to be noted in the Newsletter.	ACOL