
**MINUTES OF THE ASHTON COAL PROJECT
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
FRIDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2012
2.00PM - ASHTON COAL PROJECT SITE OFFICE**

ATTENDEES:

Steve Ernst	(SE)	Community Representative
Michael Bestic	(MB)	Community Representative
John McInerney	(JMc)	Community Representative
Godfrey Adamthwaite	(GA)	Singleton Council
Brian Wesley	(BW)	Company Rep (General Manager)
Lisa Richards	(LR)	Company Rep (Environmental & Community Relations Manager)
Scotney Moore	(SM)	Company Rep (Environmental Coordinator)
Alan Tight	(AT)	Company Rep (Environmental Coordinator)
Dee Murdoch	(DM)	AECOM – Presentation re: MOP
Gabriel Wardenberg	(GW)	AECOM – Presentation re: MOP
Brooke Holland	(BH)	Minute Taker

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE CHAIRPERSON

The Chairperson opened the meeting at 2:15pm.

2. APOLOGIES

Tracey Vollebregt (TV).

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST BY COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Nil

4. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes from the meeting held on 18 September 2012 were accepted as a true and accurate record:

Moved: John McInerney **Seconded:** Steve Ernst

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

An ACOL newsletter with an advertisement for the vacant CCC position will be sent out by ACOL once the Guidelines for the makeup of the CCC have been determined. Changes to rules regarding this may have an effect on the constitution of the Committee. LR to review the Guidelines.

JMc expressed concern that the Camberwell Village signs still did not conform to the original request, ie. the establishment date of the village does not appear on the signs. LR will liaise with Sarah Roberts of Singleton Council regarding our options on this issue.

6. REPORTS AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

6.1 OVERVIEW OF OPERATIONS

Underground & Bowmans Creek Diversion Project

All of the Pikes Gully seam has been mined with the exception for LW6, the Extraction Plan for LW6B was submitted for approval in early November.

Mining operations currently underway on LW101, underneath A.Bowman's property. As discussed in the last meeting, the powerlines have been subsided, but due to the upgrades made by ACOL to these lines, the impact of this has been minimal.

The Mod 10 Gas Drainage Project application was submitted for approval in mid-November; we are hopeful that we shall receive approval for this prior to the Christmas break.

Bowmans Creek Diversion Project

The construction of the project was completed mid-November and the contractors have been de-mobilized. Present and future works on the site will be for rehabilitation and maintenance purposes. Site inspections may be arranged upon request.

North East Open Cut (NEOC)

Rehabilitation of the site is complete, however maintenance is continuing.

Preparations are underway for the void pit to be able to receive rejects and tailings. As water collects in the pit, ACOL are de-watering the site and using this water at the CHPP.

South East Open Cut (SEOC)

As was anticipated, PAC approval of the SEOC is now the subject of an Appeal in the Land and Environment Court. The Environmental Defenders Office is representing the Applicant: the Hunter Environment Lobby. A Directions Hearing is scheduled for December 13 but the Statement of Facts and Contentions is yet to be submitted by the Applicant – our expectation is that this will not be submitted until late January or early February, and that the action will be heard around April, with a decision likely to be handed down around July or August 2013.

JMc suggested that additional tree screens be planted alongside the SEOC boundary (abutting the New England Highway). LR will investigate this possibility.

6.2 ENVIRONMENTAL

Dust Monitoring

LR provided an overview of the dust monitoring sites and results, showing the “Rolling Readings” for the past 12 months. PM₁₀ data for the September to November 2012 period was also presented, with LR explaining the methods used for data collection and how it is processed to determine results (eg. Wind speed and direction a factor when determining the actual contribution to airborne particles that ACOL is responsible for).

Blasting

No blasting has occurred since September 2011.

Water Monitoring

LR presented the annual trends for the water monitoring sites. Rainfall has been extraordinarily low in the last six months of 2012 and this has affected the water quality, which has begun to show typical signs of ‘pooled’ rather than ‘flowing’ water.

Noise Monitoring

Statutory noise monitoring was undertaken in November, and there were no exceedences of the Ashton criteria.

Complaints

There were 0 complaints and enquiries received over the period.

Environmentally-Related Operations Changes

Nil environmental related operational changes were made during the reporting period.

Site Management Plans

Changes to Management Plans (to be left as an Agenda item to ensure CCC updated regularly on ACOL’s progress). Numerous reasons for changes to our Management Plans, including a reduction in duplication; to rationalize our monitoring networks; the closure of the NEOC changes our needs; and we are attempting to fully modernize the style of our Management Plans.

Plan to consolidate our monitoring systems and remove some equipment that has been made redundant, such as Depositional Dust Gauges which are unreliable due to contamination. TEOM stations (for the measurement of PM₁₀) are more reliable and also take measurements in real time.

6.3 MANAGEMENT PLAN / MINE OPERATIONS PLAN REVIEW

GW and DM explained the MOP for NEOC and U/G: the purpose of the MOP is to evaluate works to date and also to plan for future activities – adjusting actions based upon experience.

Other Management Plans are required to be completed for the MOP to be approved (for example, Rehabilitation Management Plans).

Reporting is done through the Annual Environmental Management Report (AEMR), which is supplied to government agencies, the local council, neighbours, and those who request a copy. In addition, all CCC members receive a copy of the report, and it is also posted on Ashton's website.

6.4 UPPER HUNTER MINING DIALOGUE

Minimal active participation for trials such as grazing on NEOC at present.

SM, LR, and Michael Moore (MM) have participated in various committees and councils to engage in dialogue.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

8. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 5 March 2013:

MEETING CLOSED 4:05pm

ACTION ITEMS	
ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY
Review the CCC Guidelines	LR Mar-13
CCC member advertisement to be placed in next ACOL newsletter	LR Mar-13
LR will liaise with Sarah Roberts of Singleton Council regarding our options on this issue	LR Mar-13
LR will investigate possibility of extra tree screen along SEOC boundary with NE HWY	LR Mar-13