

**MINUTES OF THE ASHTON COAL PROJECT
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2003
10.00AM - ASHTON COAL PROJECT SITE OFFICE**

ATTENDEES:

Cr Fred Harvison	Singleton Council (Chairman)
Brian Thomas	Singleton Council
Deidre Oloffson	Community Representative
Thelma DeJong	Community Representative
Ian Callow	Company Representative (Project Manager)
Colin Davies	Company Representative (Environmental Officer)

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE CHAIRPERSON

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the inaugural meeting.

Discussion took place regarding meeting times for future meetings. Colin Davies (**CD**) raised the issue of the time of these meeting. It was acknowledged the difficulty of committee members to attend the meeting. Need to have meetings during the day. We could send a letter to Committee members to approach their employer for time to attend the meetings (Mayor will endorse). Other members of Committee agree to continue having the meetings during the day.

1.1 Explanation, process, responsibilities, how parties relate, etc.

The Chairman discussed the guidelines that were sent to each member along with their roles and responsibilities. The role of community representatives is to oversee and not dictate terms. Representatives can make comments and recommendations on any community impact.

The Chairman gave an overview of the:

- Structure of the Committee;
- Responsibilities of the Company;
- Frequency of meeting.

It was suggested that meetings be held every six (6) months or at other intervals as may be required.

Brian Thomas (**BT**) suggested that the most efficient way to operate meetings is on an informal basis so that people are able to get the most out of the meeting. A structured agenda needs to be in place for each meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Neville Smiles
Tanya Hassett
John McInerney

Moved: *Thelma DeJong*

Seconded: *Deidre Olofsson*

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST BY COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

No declarations were acknowledged. Deidre Oloffson (DO) mentioned there were holes, created from an old sewerage tank located in the temporary common, that need to be filled in.

Ian Callow (IC) provided information on the TSR / Common land swap. Ashton Coal Operations Limited (ACOL) agreed to fence and provide a dam and fill the holes.

4. REPORTS AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES**4.1 From Project Management (eg. project overview, status, construction schedule)**

IC provided an overview of operations from planning stage, namely:

- land ownership;
- open cut mine;
- underground mine including subsidence effects on Bowmans Creek; and
- Facilities – washplant, powerline relocation, Telstra, bunds, dams. Roberts & Schaefer will build and operate the washplant – contract term is 20 years.

IC advised ACOL attempting to keep capital costs down by using second-hand equipment which is available on the market.

Fred Harvison (FH) asked how ACOL control contractors. IC explained contractual processes and contractors' responsibilities. IC advised Henry Walker Eltin would be the contractor for the open cut mine.

IC discussed the following issues:

- noise monitoring / reversing beepers;
- MAN project office;
- Intersection of Glennies Creek Road – upgrade;
- Train siding / loadout;
- Employment – Contractors' responsibility – undertaking given to provide residents with first option. Letters and applications forms will be sent out this week to people who have registered an interest.
- Water – nil discharge site. Have water licences from Bowmans / Glennies and Hunter River and working on a pipeline from Glennies Creek Mine.

4.2 From Environmental Officer (eg. recent monitoring data, process for responses to complaints)

Colin Davies (CD) discussed monitoring system and complaints procedures ie:

- Dust;
- Blast / Overpressure;
- Water;
- Flora / Fauna;
- VCA; and
- Summary of the Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) for CCC.

CCC concerned there is too much information in the Plans to wade through and requested a summary of the Environmental Strategy and the EMPs.

Would also like to see immediate response to complaints received.

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

FH requested a summary of the EMS and Managements Plan be included with the next agenda.

DO raised the question of other agencies attending the meeting as older consents requested the attendance of government agencies.

BT outlined that DMR / DLWC generally attend the meeting after an annual report has been issued. EPA do not attend meetings.

DO asked if complaint forms could be issued to residents and dropped up to the office or provided to community representatives.

Agenda is to be issued a few weeks prior to the scheduled meeting and representatives' availability to be advised as soon as possible. Draft minutes to be issued within 21 days of the meeting date. Discussion took place on the format of minutes. It was agreed a brief summary was required but any specific questions/answers to be minuted, and a person independent of providing information at the meeting take the minutes. This will occur from the next meeting.

6. NEXT MEETING

It was agreed to hold the next meeting on Tuesday 2 March 2004 commencing at 1.00pm. Meeting will be held at ACOL's office.

7. Site Inspection of the Operations

Site inspection took place at 12.45pm.

MEETING CLOSED AT 2.10PM