

Werris Creek Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee

Twelfth Meeting of the Committee

Whitehaven Training Room, Werris Creek Coal Mine

10.00am 29 July 2009

MINUTES

1. Record of Attendance:

Ron Short (Chairman); Noel Taylor (Community Representative); Chris Holley (Community Representative); Des George (Whitehaven); Mick Post (Project Manager WCC); Lynden Cini (Environmental Officer WCC); Lisa Single (WCC).

Apologies: Casper Dieben (Whitehaven)

Ron Short addressed the committee regarding the use of a tape recorder to assist the Minutes Secretary to record the Minutes. It was agreed that the tape would be only used for the Minutes Secretary only. All in attendance agreed with the taping of the minutes.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting 12th March 2009 accepted as true representation of business conducted on day. Motion moved.

Moved Chris Holley, Seconded Des George. Motion carried

3. Declaration of Pecuniary or other interests

None to report

4. Matters Arising

No Matters arising

5. New Matters for Discussion Under General Business

Noel Taylor – Letter from Tony Jones re: Potential to Extend Mining Operations.

6. AEMR 2008/2009

Ron Short received a copy of the AEMR that was recently reviewed. Ron notified other committee members that he was happy to pass a copy onto members of the committee to have a glance through. RS clarified to the Committee that the CCC are not party to the review process. It is done by the Company, Government Department etc. The CCC role is simply as an observer and the Chairman receives a copy of the report to have a look at and if there are any issues of significance then the CCC can talk about.

RS has an issue with some changes in the potential height of the waste dump. The original height is 410m AHD.

LC explains the AEMR and the information that was put into this section of the report is a small summarisation of what has been put out to the community through the SOE and the modification to our consent limits. One of the key aspects was the height of the dump from 410m AHD to 445m AHD. Not something new in the AEMR. After the submission there was no response from the wider community. There were specifically none on the lifting of the height, there were concerns of other impacts that were addressed.

RS asks Lynden to give CCC a rundown on what went on:

LC this AEMR reflects everything that happened on site from 01/04/08 to 31/03/09. This particular document went out to all the Government Departments and is written for the DPI minerals section where it is scrutinized by the Environmental Officer who looks after the WCC project, it also went out to the Dept of Environment and Climate Change, Dept of Water and Energy, Dept of Agriculture, Chairman of the CCC and the Liverpool Plains Shire Council.

DPI organise an onsite meeting and a tour of the site. A breakdown is done of the document and any information that they may find that needs extra discussion on a face to face level and having a look at things on site. This AEMR was the best result ever received. No major concerns highlighted which was a first for the WCC site. In Previous years there were concerns with hydrocarbon management on site e.g. bunding around workshops, since WHC took over the site more control has been in place. Council raised an interested in having a member of the community involved. LC suggested a member of the CCC.

Written response hasn't been received to say the report has been accepted, but the review process on site was a positive result.

CH asks if the report that was put together was a comprehensive listing of the decisions and issues that were raised.

LC - the AEMR document is a report of a comprehensive listing of what Environmental Management has occurred on site from 01/04/08 to 31/03/09. It is literally the most comprehensive document and process that a site can do from an Environmental aspect.

RS asks if anyone would like to raise any issues to LC or members of the company.

CCC dealt in broad terms with the AEMR and received an outline of the process from LC and the AEMR will be circulated amongst the CCC Members.

7. Discussion Quarterly Monitoring Results January, February, March 2008

No major concerns to highlight in the period.

LC – Page 3, the weather station lost a total of one month, 15 days of December and 15 days of January. There was a major breakdown with the weather station and during this time it was being remade and put back on site.

There was an elevated dust reading on the “Eurunderee” property, elevated by 2. This property is a project related property therefore it is not recognized as an exceedance by the departments. Every other aspect of the environmental monitoring of that 3 month period has been under license limits and working to our consent and license requirements.

DG mentioned that the blast monitoring at the property “Railway view”, which is a project related property, over 115db mark but as it is a project related property it is not an exceedance.

RS asks “by buying the adjoining properties does that give WCC more flexibility where the shot firing is concerned.”

DG – yes it does as it increases the buffer zone around the mine site but we still design the blast so we don't exceed outside the buffer zone.

RS – John Colville has made a number of comments to Ron Short about the lights at night shining in to his bedroom. No formal complaint has been made but it is felt that it is better if WCC makes contact with Mr. Colville. LC to contact him in the future.

RS – matter on quarterly report resolved.

8. General Business

- A.** History of Underground Workings update - It is felt that given the expansion of the mine there is a concern that the documentation is more important as there will come a day when the underground mine will no longer be there.
- DG – Contact has been made with a former employee Mick Warren, he is still a resident of Werris Creek. He visited the site. Also have contact details for former Mine Manager Doc Thomas who lives in Gosford. Period of work was from 1924 – 1963 and we know the seam that was worked and the seam height. The greatest depth was 120mtrs. We have a little bit of information but there is not much more out there that can be found at this stage.
- NT – was there any information given about the underground water supply?
- DG – Not at this stage but will ask Doc Thomas. Mick Warren didn't spend a lot of time underground; most of his time was on the surface. The concerns we have is the water underground, the 330ML. Some of the research is showing that is probably not that much, more likely about 200ML. Original workings are now dry. Everything is being documented.
- RS - suggest before work begins on the underground workings we set and absolute resolve of what we as a committee can do as well as WCC.
- DG – As part of the approvals process everything must be documented and given to the DPI. Mining expected to start November – December 09 subject to approval. Any history of the underground workings will be given to the Historical Society or the Rail Museum.
- B.** Letter to Pacific National – Committee to forward letter to Pacific National raising issue of dust from trains. No response to date.
- RS – spoke with Col Phillips and there is a 90 page report prepared by Connell hatch dated the 31st March 08 and it is called “The Final Report on the Environmental Evaluation of Fugitive Coal Dust Emissions from Coal Trains Goonyella, Blackwater and Moura Coal Rail Systems Queensland Rail Authority. The report came about as a result of work done by the QLD Environment Agency. The main issues identified in the report are train speed, the ambient wind pressure, particle size and vibration of lands. The Government Authority issues a license to the ARTC under the Environment Protection license. RS raised the question of who is the authority and who might monitor etc. What the cumulative impact of trains and dust emissions. The advice given was there is nobody monitoring cumulative impact. Paul Scarff, Regional Manager for Pacific National, said the Minerals Councils is involved somehow. Ron Van Katwyk says Council has pursued the matter and is getting some communication going on the matter.
- LC – has email correspondence between Whitehaven senior Management and NSW Minerals Council. It dates back to a letter Ron Van Katwyk sent to Minerals Council and responses from the Minerals Council. Correspondence from the Director of Infrastructure Government Relations from NSW Minerals Council. The issue has been raised with George Souris MP and relevant ministerial advisors. George Souris has a concern that it is another ploy by locals opposed to the industry.
- NT – Ratepayers should go to the Local Council with their complaints
- RS – has asked a lot of relevant questions but no cooperation. Maybe get a co operative to sort it out.
- The CCC has taken the problem to the Council and the Company has taken it to the Minerals Council. Not much more to do but keep a bit of pressure on the relevant Councils. RS to express a view to the LPSC on behalf of the CCC.
- C.** Discussion regarding Community Programs which may need Funding Support –
- CH suggests Rail Museum is going to do a major upgrade commencing in February. They would like to do a gallery on the coal industry to show the story of coal.
- MP – put in writing to Tony Jones in the Gunnedah Office.

- D.** CH – mentions the ARTC 42 page report on Coal Mines and the work that is going to happen in the next 5 years and the western line is going to be reopened. WCC is going to be part of a loop process. The report was issued last week. There will be all doubled lined to Gunnedah, the Western line will come past the line at WCC and will join the main Northern line. Won't go past the station. Chris will email to Mick Post.
- E.** CH raises the concerns that some of the locals had regarding the dumping of Drillers Mud at the local tip. There is a public meeting being held in Werris Creek on the 29 July. The mud is from the Watermark coal company. He had received a call from a local who was concerned about what some of the properties of the Drillers Mud may contain. CH wishes to note that he was advised via the CCC meeting the processes that are used and he was quite happy with the response.
- F.** NT – Received a letter from Tony Jones regarding a summary of information pertaining to the recent SoE currently awaiting approval, specifically questioning the drop in ground water which has the potential to affect him directly.
 LC – as part of the 3 year extension, the widening of the pit and working through the old underground mine is to dewater the underground workings and mine through it. The process involved a comprehensive study on ground water in the underground workings and a comprehensive study on monitoring of the ground water in the surrounding aquifers. The results of that study concluded that at a maximum there could be a 0.1 of a meter (10cm) drop in the ground water to the south of the mine moving towards Quipolly. Worst case Scenario. This was in the submission and was duly noted by various community members in that area with their responses put to the departments and then forwarded on to WCC to reply and give an acceptable answer. LC has a copy of the response that was put to the Departments and to the landholders that made the concern and is happy to distribute to the CCC.
 NT reasonably happy, other community members complaining have gone to the mine, one person still complaining. LC suggests any other people within the community who still may have concerns should call him direct.
 Tony Jones prepared to come and talk to community members.
 RS suggest if that there are any major concerns that there be a meeting with Tony Jones.
 LC put back to NT to approach individuals and ask if they would like a meeting and notify LC.
 Meeting Closed 11:25am

Next Meeting

TBA

Copy to:

Ron Short	Chairman
Chris Holley	Local Community Representative
Jill Coleman	Local Community Representative
Noel Taylor	Local Community Representative
Lindsay Bridge	Local Community Representative

Anna Bradley	DoP
Michael Lloyd	DII
Merv Pendergast	LPSC

Des George	Whitehaven Coal
Mick Post	Whitehaven Coal
Casper Dieben	Whitehaven Coal
Danny Young	Whitehaven Coal
Lynden Cini	Whitehaven Coal
Brian Cullen	Whitehaven Coal