

Minutes of Rocglen Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee – Meeting #12

Meeting Held: Wednesday 10th August 2011

Venue: The meeting held at Rocglen Coal Mine Training Room

Commencement Time: 3:00pm

Prior to the meeting commencing, Orica Blasting Services technical services staff provided a presentation to the committee outlining the process involved in designing and preparing for a blast, the safeguards in place and gave specific detail relative to the incidence of post blast fume, including the measures taken to avoid the potential for fume to occur. The presentation was well received by the CCC who thanked the Orica team for the presentation of the information and their responses to questions received.

1. Present and Apologies

Present: Mr John Sturgess (Chairman)
Mrs Pam Burns (Community Rep)
Mr Tony Heinrich (Project Manager)
Mr Tim Muldoon (Community Liaison Officer - Whitehaven)
Mr Danny Young (Environmental Manager – Whitehaven)
Clr Colleen Fuller (Gunnedah Shire Rep)
Mr Warren Nicholls (Community Rep)

Apologies: Mrs Jill Scealy (Environmental Officer – Whitehaven)
Mr Rod Barnes (Community Rep)

2. Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record on the motion of Mrs Pam Burns and Clr Colleen Fuller.

3. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

- 3.1. Danny Young advised that the approval to the Rocglen extension application had still not been received. It was advised that Whitehaven has maintained regular contact with the Department in terms of answering any subsequent questions in relation to the application and was hopeful of receiving a formal determination of the application in the near future.
- 3.2. Danny Young advised that ALS Acirl who undertake all Whitehaven Environmental Sampling were instructed to obtain water samples from Rod Barnes rainwater tank to assess water quality against the

Australian Drinking Water guidelines following concerns raised by Mr Barnes as to the impacts of blasting activities on his drinking water. The results were obtained from ALS Acirl and presented to Mr Barnes in tabular form so he could compare the results to the guidelines. All results were within the guideline values with the exception of faecal coliforms and E.coli which would be unrelated to impacts from blasting. Discussions were also held in relation to the results of the real time noise monitoring unit at "Surrey" which generally recorded noise levels within compliance limits. Periods of mine noise marginally above 35dB were identified in the reports, however it could be seen that these incidences were isolated in nature and only for short periods of time.

- 3.3. Danny Young provided advice as to actions being undertaken to limit the potential for Mr Rennick's sheep to access the "Yarrari" and "Belah" which includes the install of an electric fence. Boundary fencing will be further enhanced upon registration of the Biobank site which is expected to occur over the next few months.

4. Mine Progress Report

Tony Heinrich advised that over the past 3 months approximately 2.2 million BCM of overburden was moved and 330,000 tonnes of coal was mined at an average ratio of 6.8:1. Mining conditions have generally improved since moving out of the northern extent of the pit.

5. Review of Environmental Performance

Danny Young presented the environmental monitoring results which are attached in the environmental monitoring report, and include all complaints lodged over the reporting period.

6. General Business

- 6.1. Warren Nicholls advised that he had lodged an apology for the last CCC meeting but that an apology had not been noted in the minutes from the meeting. This was acknowledged as an oversight from the minutes and that his apology would be noted in the minutes of this meeting.
- 6.2. Colleen Fuller asked how many employees are currently engaged at the Rocglen site. It was advised that currently, 47 operators are employed at Rocglen, with approximately 6 project staff, 12 maintenance operators with 3 staff, 5 contractors (Scraper operations) as well as other contractors on a day by day basis. It was estimated that approximately 50% of employees that have been engaged at site have come from a rural/farming background.

- 6.3. Warren Nicholls queried how many Whitehaven staff are on a fly in, fly out basis. It was explained that all Rocglen staff live locally, and that is the general arrangement across our open cut operations. Given shortages of experienced personnel, it was recognised that there will be some fly in fly out associated with our Narrabri underground project, however Whitehaven's preference remains for our staff to live locally, as evidenced by recent employment advertising by the Company promoting the benefits of living in the area.
- 6.4. Warren Nicholls questioned how water monitoring results were being obtained from his property when ALS Acirl have not been contacting him for approval to access his property. It was advised that ALS Acirl had been instructed to ensure they obtain approval to enter his property and that the matter would be taken up with ALS to ensure this protocol is followed in future. In the event that contact is not able to be made with Mr Nicholls prior to a monitoring run, the bores on "Brolga" will be excluded from that monitoring event.
- 6.5. John Sturgess suggested that the Complaints/Complaints Hotline agenda item be removed from future meetings on the basis that it is adequately covered in the Environmental Monitoring Report.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Rocglen CCC is scheduled for Wednesday 16th November 2011 at 3pm.

Meeting closed 4:25pm

J Sturgess
Chairman