

# Minutes of the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Sunnyside Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee

**Meeting Held:** 14<sup>th</sup> December 2011, 3:30pm

**Venue:** The meeting was held in the Board Room at Namoi Valley Brickworks.

## 1. Present and Apologies

**Present:** Mr Michael Broekman (MB) (Chairman)  
Mr Bruce Reid (BR) (Community Representative)  
Mrs Jill Johnson (JJ) (Environmental Officer - Whitehaven)  
Mr Michael Clark (MC) (Project Manager - Whitehaven)  
Mr Tim Muldoon (TM) (Community Liaison Officer - Whitehaven)  
Mr Danny Young (DY) (Environmental Manager - Whitehaven)  
Clr Hans Allgayer (HA) (Gunnedah Shire Council Representative)

**Apologies:** Mr Andrew Kennedy (AK) (Community Representative)  
Mr Glenn Bailey (GB) (3:40pm) (Community Representative)

Moved: BR and MC

## 2. Previous Minutes

Minutes of the previous meeting were adopted as a true record on the motion of BR and TM.

## 3. Business Arising

**3.1.** In response to Glenn Bailey's question about the number of trucks carting coal tailings from the CHPP to the Melville open cut, JJ advised that the average daily loads between July and November 2011 was 72. JJ noted that whilst this is the daily average, the trucks do not always operate. For example, in October 2011 they only operated for 4 or 5 days during the entire month.

**3.2.** JJ advised the committee that attended noise monitoring was conducted at the "Woodlawn" property in August 2010 following a request from Bruce Reid. Following the last CCC meeting, a letter was issued to BR in September 2011 advising that the monitoring had been undertaken in August 2010. The letter included a copy of the noise consultant's report as well as the initial letter issued to Mr Reid in 2010 which contained a copy of the consultant's report. BR said that noise doesn't worry him.

**3.3.** A letter had not been received from Vivienne Rooke (BR's daughter) advising that she would no longer be able to assist BR at the meetings. The letter was to advise of an alternative family member.

BR said he would like Liz Ferguson to assist him at the meetings but the Committee reminded BR that the person assisting him is required to be a family member (as per advice from DoP).

MB said that AK had advised him that he would be resigning from the Committee in early 2012. The Committee agreed that Whitehaven would advertise for new committee members when AK resigns. The process of advertising, interested persons registering and approval of new members by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure was reiterated to the Committee.

#### **4. Mine Progress Report**

MC provided an update on the mine's progress as follows:

- Operators - 13 full time, 9 permanent casual and 3 part time casual.
- Fitters - 2 permanent.
- Site management – 2 permanent and 1 part time contractor.
- 525 LTI free days as at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2011.
- Some reshaping and topsoil of the north western face of the waste emplacement has occurred.
- Approximately 8 ha on the north face and north western corner of the main emplacement had been seeded to crop in the past two months.
- 4 overburden blasts have been fired during the period September to end November 2011.
- Total blasted volume for the three months was 563,088 bcm.
- Nil topsoil has been removed and stockpiled in the last three months.
- In the last three months 1,047,651 bcm of overburden has been removed and 148,313 tonnes of coal mined.
- 98,159 tonnes of ROM coal has been transported offsite.
- Mine progress report moved by TM, seconded by BR.

#### **5. Environmental Monitoring Report**

DY presented the environmental monitoring results which are attached in the Environmental Monitoring Report.

HA asked whether the site had experienced any erosion during the recent heavy rain. DY said there had been a blowout on the waste emplacement which G&B Ward Earthmoving would repair in the coming weeks.

BR asked what processes create smaller dust particles. DY identified causes such as wheel generated dust by heavy earthmoving equipment. BR said he's not too worried about the wheel generated dust. He said if it's not coal dust it's not bad. DY said that our PM10 monitors do not distinguish between coal dust and normal dust. He said the departments set specific concentration criteria and that results to date confirm dust levels well below criteria. BR said that "nature's dust" won't hurt you but some of the mineral dusts aren't the same.

HA asked if there were records of dust levels before mining occurred at Sunnyside. DY said there are deposited dust monitoring results prior to mining and that those results show periods of concentrations higher than the thresholds.

Environmental Monitoring Report was moved by MC and seconded by BR.

## **6. Complaints**

Complaints were discussed in the Environmental Monitoring Report.

## **7. General Business**

JJ tabled a letter from GSC advising that Hans Allgayer is the new Council representative for the Sunnyside CCC.

BR commended MB on being a good chairman and supplying the Brickworks facilities for the meetings.

## **8. Next Meeting**

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2012, 3:30pm

Meeting closed at 4:05pm

---

Michael Broekman - Chairman