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Austar Coal Mine

Community Consultative Committee Meeting Minutes

Location: LTCC Meeting Room, Austar CHPP
 Time: 9:35am – 10:35am
 Date: 13 August 2014

Name	Representative
Margaret MacDonald-Hill (MMH)	Independent Chairperson
Alan Smith (AS)	Community Representative
David Holmes (DH)	Community Representative
Councillor Jeff Maybury (JM)	Cessnock City Council Representative
Gary Mulhearn (GM)	Austar Coal Mine
Carly McCormack (CM)	Austar Coal Mine
Greg Pawley (GP) (Partial attendance to 9:54am)	Austar Coal Mine
Apologies	
Peter Sturrock (PS)	Community Representative
Copy of minutes	
Councillor Bob Pynsent	Mayor of Cessnock City Council
Mr Joel Fitzgibbon MP	Federal Member for Hunter
Mr Clayton Barr	State Member for Cessnock
Mr Howard Reed	NSW Department of Planning & Environment
Ms Valerie Phillips	Librarian, Cessnock City Council

Item	Issue	Action	Date
1	Welcome		
	MMH – Welcomed the Committee and opened the meeting. GM introduced Austar’s new Operations Manager Greg Pawley to the committee.		
2	Declaration of Interests		
	JM - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of the Mine Subsidence Board MMH - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of the Mine Subsidence Board • Member of the Minister’s Arbitration Panel • Independent Chair of numerous Community Consultative Committee’s 		
3	Confirmation of Previous Minutes		
	The minutes of the previous meeting were considered representative of that meeting. DH moved, JM seconded.		
4	Business Arising from Previous Minutes		
	Chair to email links to media articles – completed 14/5/14 Updated email addresses sent to CCC – completed 14/5/14 Austar to provide update on accident investigation– GP will address during presentation		
5	Correspondence		
	14/5/14 - MMH Email media articles to CCC 14/5/14 - GM Email updated email addresses to CCC		
6	Current Operations, Environmental Monitoring Update, Complaints		
	GP – provided an update on current underground operations. <u>Current Operations</u> Underground <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longwall A8 commenced on 16 June 2014. Approximately 300m of retreat to 11 August 2014. • An investigation by the Mine Safety Office of the NSW Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services (DTIRIS) regarding the April 2014 incident is ongoing. Development mining is on hold. • Austar has redeployed underground personnel to other 		

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	<p>Yancoal mines (Abel and Ashton).</p> <p>GM – provided an update on current surface operations.</p> <p>Kitchener SIS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Automated pump stations from sediment basin and water storage dam to Kalingo Dam have been installed • Weather station has been installed • Power outage of Aустar’s surface infrastructure site required for connection of pumps and weather station. Outage scheduled in October 2014 <p>Rehabilitation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No activity in progress since last meeting <p>CHPP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normal operations since starting up with Longwall A8 in June 2014 <p>Environmental Incidents 14 May 2014 to 12 August 2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 x spill to land • 1 x spill to land/water • 2 x noise exceedance <p>21 May 2014 - Wet coal spill to land from overland conveyor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wet coal material was being loaded onto belts underground during longwall move. The material ran back down an inclined belt and spill off the side to land. • Bunding and monitoring implemented until wet material loading finished <p>4 June 2014 – Pipeline spill to land due to vandalism 3 shaft area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polypipe was cut into by vandals, spilling water to land • Area cleaned up and taken to soil remediation area <p>21 July 2014 – Reportable noise exceedance CHPP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measured noise level at NMC3 was 1 dB over the noise limit. The noise classified as low frequency per NSW Industrial Noise Policy, which attracts a 5 dB modifying factor. Assessable noise was then 6 dB greater than the EPL LA90 noise limit. This was reported to the EPA and DPE. • 28 July 2014 Follow-up monitoring measured noise level at NMC3 in compliance with the noise limit. However, noise classified as low frequency, resulting in measurement 3 dB greater than the EPL LA90 noise limit. Reported to EPA and DPE. 		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring on 6-7 August 2014 was in compliance with noise limits at CHPP. <p>27 July 2014 – Reportable pipeline leak to Bellbird Creek</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pipeline has been undergoing maintenance to improve flow. A pipe clamp was observed to be leaking during inspections by CHPP personnel at approx 530. The pipe was pumping dirty surface water from a recent rainfall event. The pipe clamp was rated at 12Bar, with a pumping pressure of 7 Bar. • Investigations indicated that water entered Bellbird Creek combined with a quantity of rain water. The incident was reported to the EPA, who attended site. • Observations at a weir at Austar boundary indicated the water did not leave Austar premises, being contained in Doyle St dam within Bellbird Creek. • Lab samples support an assessment of negligible impact to Bellbird Creek, and only a minimal volume of water may have entered the creek. EPA have been provided lab results. Austar continues to consult with EPA. <p>7 August 2014 - reportable noise exceedance Kalingo Infrastructure Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measured noise levels at location NMK4 (near to 3 shaft area) was LAeq,15 min 35 dB. This is equal with the noise impact assessment criteria specified in DA29/95 for this infrastructure area. Normal operations were occurring at the infrastructure location. • The noise was classed as having low frequency content when assessed in accordance with the NSW Industrial Noise Policy modifying factor definitions, attracting a 5 dB modifying factor (assessable noise is then LAeq,15min 40dB) exceeding the noise impact assessment criteria by 5dB. • DPE notified. Consultation with DPE noise specialist undertaken – LF policy is being updated in future. LF investigation being commissioned in consultation with DPE. <p>12 August 2014 – 3 shaft area spill to land from pipe fitting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor spill to land identified during routing inspections at a pipe fitting. • Pipeline fittings to be checked/adjusted by maintenance personnel. <p>GP – gave apologies and left the meeting</p>		

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	<p>GM – provided update on environmental monitoring</p> <p><u>Environmental Monitoring Update</u></p> <p>Subsidence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring survey undertaken in late July 2014. Graphs of subsidence measurement presented • Subsidence results are within predicted levels, currently at approximately 250mm for LWA7 and 100mm for LWA8 • 450mm maximum subsidence predicted at completion of LWA7 and 750mm at completion of LWA8 <p>Air Quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual average PM₁₀ is well below Annual Average Maximum Criteria at all locations in 2014 • Annual average deposited dust is tracking below Annual Maximum Criteria for all locations in 2014 • Graphs of air quality monitoring data were presented <p>Water Quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pH and EC graphs were presented. • pH and EC monitoring within Environment Protection Licence limits. • General trends in Bellbird Creek, Quorrobolong Creek and Coney Creek presented. • Groundwater levels were presented on a graph. <p>Noise</p> <p>Since last CCC meeting (14 May 2014 to 12 August 2014)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measured noise was compliant with noise limits for May & June • In July, measured noise levels at location NMC3 1 dB over the noise limit. Also, noise classified as low frequency, which attracts a 5 dB modifying factor per Industrial Noise Policy, resulting in 6 dB greater than the EPL LA90 noise limit. This was reported to the EPA and DPE. • Follow-up monitoring 28 July 2014 measured noise levels at NMC3 in compliance with the noise limit. However, noise classified as low frequency per INP definition, resulting in measurement 3 dB greater than the EPL LA90 noise limit. This was reported to EPA and DPE. • Monitoring on 6-7 August 2014 was compliant at the CHPP. • Noise at NMK4 was at the noise limit, but classed as low frequency per INP, resulting in 5dB greater than DA29/95 noise limit. Reported to EPA and DPE. Consultation commenced with DPE on LF policy developments, and further LF investigations. 		

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	<p>Vibration</p> <p>Since last CCC meeting (5 May 2014 to 1 August 2014)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor V7 – 345 Quorrobolong Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 4 events <3mm/sec • Monitor V8 – 159 Coney Creek Lane <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 7 events <3mm/sec ○ 4 events >3 & <5mm/sec ○ 1 event 6.13mm/sec <p>Note: all events were below the level where cosmetic structural damage may occur of 15mm/sec</p> <p>GM – Gave update on community complaints</p> <p><u>Community Complaints</u></p> <p>Since last CCC meeting (13 May to 12 August 2014)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25/05/14 – Complaint – Noise Kitchener SIS. Results were within limits. Complainant not able to be contacted despite several attempts. • 04/06/14 – EPA Environment Line Complaint – Noise KIA/3 Shaft. Nil abnormal activity occurring. Results of recent monitoring were compliant results were relayed to EPA. • 24/06/14 – EPA Environment Line Complaint – Noise KIA/3 Shaft & Mine Pit Top. Nil abnormal activity occurring. Noise monitoring undertaken on 25/6/14 with nil issues – result relayed to EPA. • 01/08/14 – Complaint – Vibration in Stage 3 Area, possible damage to house. Results of recent vibration monitoring provided. Contact details of MSB office provided. Austar offer to place temporary monitor to estimate correlation to nearby permanent monitoring station. • 06/08/14 – Odour Aberdare Reject Emplacement Area from illegal dumping and burning of rubbish. Gate was stolen in June. Access now sealed. 		
7	General Business		
	<p>Community Sponsorships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ellalong Woodchop Championship- sponsorship for 2014 		

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	<p>Premises Noise Assessment – EPL Pollution Reduction Program</p> <p>A requirement of our Environment Protection Licence to have noise limits for noise sources of the premises. Currently the EPL only specifies noise limits for the CHPP. In progress in consultation with the EPA.</p> <p>DH – When will report be complete?</p> <p>GM – 31 August 2014 due to EPA</p> <p>DH – Requested an update at the next meeting</p>	GM to give update on Premises Noise Assessment	Next Meeting
8	Next Meetings		
	<p>Next Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 November 2014 – 9:30am LTCC Office, Austar CHPP 		
10	Meeting Closed		
	MMH – Declared the meeting closed at 10:35am and thanked all for attending.		

Recorded: Carly McCormack 19/08/2014

Confirmed: To be confirmed at next meeting

Chairperson – Margaret MacDonald-Hill