

Minutes of the 10th Meeting of the Sunnyside Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee

Meeting Held: 1st June 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 Vivienne Rooke (VR) (Bruce Reid's Representative)
Mr Andrew Kennedy (AK) (Community Representative)
Mr Glenn Bailey (GB) (3:40pm) (Community Representative)
Miss Jill Scealy (JS) (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)

Apologies: Mr Stephen Benham (SB) (Community Representative)

Moved: AK and MC

2. Previous Minutes

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

BR commented on Section 5 of the minutes where it said MC had explained he was incorrect about drilling activities being dry as they emit toxic gas when they are wet. He said that even when it rains there is some dust coming from the area that's being drilled. He said he is concerned about his drinking water and doesn't believe the mine is using water for drilling.

MC said he stands by his statement that the drill rigs use water during drilling. He said they do their best to minimise dust but there will always be some dust associated with drilling.

The committee agreed that the minutes shall remain as presented.

3. Business Arising

- 3.1. JS provided an electronic copy of the AEMR to Glenn Bailey (CMA) and advised that she was awaiting a reply from DTIRIS regarding inclusion of the CMA in AEMR site inspections. Update to be provided at next meeting.
- 3.2. JS advised that the Independent Environmental Audit had been submitted with an action plan to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DoPI) for review. A copy of the audit report will be issued to the CCC on acceptance from DoPI.

4. Mine Progress Report

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

- Operators - 12 full time, 7 permanent casual and 3 part time casual.
- Fitters - 1 permanent and 1 permanent contractor.
- Site management – 2 permanent and 1 part time contractor.
- 332 LTI free days as at 31st May 2011.
- Five overburden blasts have been fired since the last meeting with an issue with Shot 28 (details provided in Environmental Monitoring Report).
- Some reshaping and topsoiling of the north and eastern faces of the main waste emplacement undertaken with the north east corner of the emplacement seeded to crop in early May.
- In the last three months 926,023 bcm of overburden has been moved, 97,484 tonnes of coal has been mined and 53,646 tonnes of coal has been transported offsite. Quantities are estimates as May survey results not available at time of meeting.
- The Sunnyside breaker feeder/crusher unit was commissioned in mid March. This infrastructure, with an in-built water spray system, has greatly helped in ROM pad coal dust suppression.

MC said that production had increased and VR asked by how much. MC explained that it's actually a recovery in production rates following the reduced production which resulted from the wet weather in 2010.

MC also advised that substantial works had been conducted on Coochooboonah Lane to repair damage caused during the wet weather in 2010.

VR asked how many truck movements were occurring each day and MC advised that the average was about 75 truck loads (ie. 150 truck movements). VR said that the original figure provided when the Company announced the mine was 120 truck movements. Whitehaven representatives committed to investigating this and providing an update at the next meeting.

VR said that it is very noisy at the Woodlawn property. JS asked whether the noise was from Coochooboonah Land or the Oxley Highway. VR said the noise was from the highway and acknowledged that she couldn't distinguish whether the noise was from mine related vehicles or not but that the highway was much noisier than when she was younger.

5. Environmental Monitoring Report

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

VR asked how many dust monitors are on privately owned land. DY advised that all monitors are with the exception of Lilydale which is mine-owned.

BR advised that whilst he wasn't at home at the time of the blast on the 9th April 2011 he had been advised that it was "a home wrecker". BR said

nobody knows what damage blasts are doing to farmer's bores and other infrastructure. He told the committee that he had paid for an engineer's report when the mine started but he wasn't sure what good it would do. He said money talks all languages and that by the time anything happened at his property the engineer might be working for the mine.

MC committed to reviewing the blast monitor results for the 9th April shot and providing them at the next meeting. He said he could guarantee that the blast wouldn't have exceeded any limits as we would have dealt with it already.

The issue of blast exceedance on the 3rd May 2011 was discussed, and that it was thought that shot design, including the extent of stemming used in the blast holes, contributed to the shot ejecting from the holes rather than being absorbed by the burden. MC explained that stemming (20mm aggregate) in the blast holes is used to prevent ejection of the blast energy from the hole. He also explained the concept of double stitching which is an increase in the frequency of holes in the back row of the shot pattern with the additional holes usually at half depth (ie. 7m spacing reduced to 3.5m spacing in the final row). Double stitching reduces highwall back-break which allows greater highwall stability. In the case of the blast exceedance, the depth of stemming used and the double stitch design contributed to the elevated overpressure result.

6. Complaints

Complaints were discussed in the Environmental Monitoring Report.

MB said that Bruce's report of concern about the 9th April 2011 blast should be recorded as an official complaint. Bruce was unable to provide details about who complained.

BR indicated that he thought bigger blasts were more economically efficient and asked what area is blasted at one time. MC said the area varies but is generally about 120m x 50m. He said that large blasts aren't necessarily more cost effective and that the size of a blast doesn't correlate with the noise impact.


7. General Business

JS (on behalf of SB) requested that the meetings be moved to another time so as not to clash with Council meetings. The committee agreed that meetings would be held on the second Wednesday of the month.

8. Next Meeting

Wednesday 14th September 2011, 3:30pm

Meeting closed at 4:10pm


Michael Broekman - Chairman