

Stratford Mining Complex - Independent Environmental Audit 2014

Response to Recommendations

Recommendations				
Audit report reference	Management area	Action	Stratford Coal Response	Status Update January 2017
4.3.3	Noise	Recommendation N1: It is recommended the unattended logger surveys (typically 72 hour) be discontinued.	Stratford Coal accepts the recommendation.	The SMC Noise Management Plan has been updated to remove unattended logger surveys from Section 7. The NMP will be submitted to DP&E during the 2017 reporting period.
4.3.4.1	Noise	Recommendation N2: The Vipac Quarterly Environmental Noise Survey reports do not contain assessment of low frequency noise emissions in accordance with the Industrial Noise Policy. It is recommended that low frequency noise emissions should be assessed in the quarterly reports to satisfy Condition L2.8 of EPL 5161.	<p>Stratford Mining Complex undertakes its monitoring in accordance with the INP. The recent Noise and Blasting Assessment completed for the Stratford Extension Project EIS (Appendix C) was undertaken in accordance with various guidelines which included the INP (EPA, 2000), NSW Road Noise Policy (DECCW, 2011); Environmental Assessment Requirements for Rail Traffic Generating Developments (EPA, 2012); and the Interim Construction Noise Guideline (DECC, 2009). The INP states in relation to low frequency noise: <i>Where a noise source contains certain characteristics, such as tonality, impulsiveness, intermittency, irregularity or dominant low-frequency content, there is evidence to suggest that it can cause greater annoyance than other noise at the same noise level.</i></p> <p>There is no known dominant low-frequency content relating to noise emissions from the existing Stratford Mining Complex from previous work undertaken. Consequently, reporting provides an 'A' weighting noise level assessment in accordance with the INP. Stratford Complex will consult with the EPA and DP&E as part of future revisions of the Noise Management Plan and revise as required in relation to low frequency noise.</p>	The SMC Noise Management Plan has been updated and will be submitted to DP&E during the 2017 reporting period. The quarterly attended noise monitoring reports include an assessment of low frequency noise. A low frequency noise assessment is only undertaken when the target specific mine noise is deemed to be the dominant noise source in accordance with the INP Section 4. If the mine noise is deemed to be the dominant source an analysis of C and A weighted noise levels is undertaken to determine if the modifying factor should be applied.
4.3.4.1	Noise	Recommendation N3: It is recommended that to incorporate low frequency assessment in the current noise monitoring report format analysis results should be changed on the left hand side of the graphical representation to the following, in order: Total Leq dB(A) Mine contribution Leq dB(A) Mine contribution Leq dB(C) Mine dB(C) – dB(A) Mine contribution L1 (night time only).	As above.	Completed. The C and A weighted assessment is included in the noise reports if the mine contribution is deemed to be the dominant source. Noise reports are available on the Stratford Coal website.
4.3.4.2	Noise	Recommendation N4: It is recommended to discontinue including model results in compliance reports.	Stratford Coal accepts the recommendation.	Completed. The SMC Noise Management Plan has been updated and will be submitted to DP&E during the 2017 reporting period. Modelled results are no longer reported in the compliance reports.
4.13.4	Rehabilitation	Recommendation R1: The slope lengths and grade of rehabilitated waste rock emplacements are consistent with those recommended in "Managing Urban Stormwater – Soils and Construction Volume 1" Landcom, 2004 and "Managing Urban Stormwater – Soils and Construction Volume 2E" (DECC 2008) Figure 4.8 of Landcom, 2004. This will require consideration of the erodibility of the subsoils and top soils (i.e. K-Factor) used for the final landform stability.	Stratford Coal accepts this recommendation. Current consideration of erodibility and monitoring occurs within the existing Rehabilitation Management Plan and will be incorporated into future revisions.	The SMC Rehabilitation Management Plan and the Mining Operations Plan will be revised during the 2017 reporting period to ensure consistency.
4.13.4	Rehabilitation	Recommendation R2: Consider revising the Rehabilitation Management Plan and MOP requirements to adopt a concave profile for rehabilitated slopes.	Stratford Coal will consider revising the Rehabilitation Management Plan to include allowance for assessing visible relief on final landforms. Consultation with DRE and DP&E will occur during the revision of respective documents. The current SCPL Rehabilitation Management Plan already provides a commitment to consider adopting a concave profile for rehabilitated slopes where possible and practicable.	The SMC Rehabilitation Management Plan and the Mining Operations Plan will be revised during the 2017 reporting period to ensure consistency.