

**Report of the Stratford Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee (SCMCCC)
Held Thursday 3rd February 2011**

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Present: Cl J Henderson (Chairman), Mr B Williams, Mr T Tersteeg, Mr G Wilcox, Mr B Tomb, Mr K Latham, Mr P Greenwood, Mr T Hutchings, Mr J Trotter, Ms A Pain,

Visitors: Mr P Cribb, Mr T Dwyer.

Apologies: Mr N Bignell, Mr R Clarke.

Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting Held 5 August 2010:

Minutes of the last meeting were accepted by the Committee (Tersteeg/Latham).

Business Arising from the Previous Meeting:

Mr Latham concerned about the increasing acidity of reject samples shown in the “Stratford Reject 2010” graph. This graph presented data from March to October 2010 (inclusive). Cl Henderson suggested that the acidity of reject samples be monitored into the future to observe trending behaviour. Mr Trotter noted that the reject water pH has remained in the neutral range and was not showing any indications of acidification. Mr Trotter suggested that it was possible for a specialist geochemical consultant to provide an expert opinion upon reject behaviour at the next meeting if the Committee thought this would be beneficial. The Committee passed a motion (Henderson/Tomb) in support of this.

General Business:

Report on Environmental Monitoring (Mr Trotter)

(comments applicable to results tabled since last meeting)

Surface Water pH – all sites were within the neutral range and exhibited similar trend behaviour.

Surface Water Total Suspended Solids (TSS) – all sites returned low readings with the exception of samples collected in early November (under greater flows).

Stratford Main Pit Water Quality – Electrical Conductivity and Sulphate – trends for both exhibited fluctuations without any apparent raising or falling over the annual cycle.

Dust Gauges – results for all sites (with the exception of sites D9 (November) and D10 (November)) were low and less than the EPA limit. D9 (November) was subject to contamination by insects and plant material; D10 (November) was affected by insects and possible bird dung.

High Volume (PM₁₀) Air Sampling – all EPL monitoring site results well under the EPA limit with the exception of HVD4 during September sampling. September sampling was impacted by smoke/ash from burning off.

High Volume (PM₁₀) Air Sampling Annual Rolling Average – all monitoring sites exhibit a marginally decreasing trend.

Blasting – all results were licence compliant. There was a request from Committee members that “no trigger” in results provided be altered to “less than” trigger overpressure/ground vibration values in future.

Rainfall – October – December slightly wetter than local historical averages.

Complaints – 6 complaints received from 3 complainants tabled. All noise related and one also addressed lighting. Members of the Committee requested that in future more complaint related information be provided including details regarding responses and any follow-up action.

Train Noise

Mr Latham raised his concerns about train/locomotive noise on the rail loop under a 2am railing curfew. Mr Dwyer advised that approval for a 2am curfew was yet to be obtained by the Company and if gained would be subject to introduction of quieter locomotives. Mr Dwyer noted that installation of extensive noise mitigation boarding has been committed to on the rail loop.

Mine Progress and Exploration Progress

Mr Hutchings advised the Committee that:

- for Roseville West Pit, mining of coal was occurring for the full length of the pit; and
- for Bowens Road North Pit, the cutback of the western high wall had started and that the flood bund at the south-western pit corner was under construction.

Mr Greenwood asked about multiple visits of personnel to exploration areas. Mr Hutchings explained that this was necessary as a consequence of activities undertaken. Issues such as access agreements, requirement for additional data and the availability of drilling rigs were involved.

Mr Hutchings stated that there was an ongoing program to seal exploration boreholes and that as more are sealed the possible negative impacts of open boreholes will be lessened. Mr Henderson asked about exploration boreholes being left open for landowners to use. Advice was provided that to Company representatives knowledge no recent drillholes had been left open at the request of landholders.

Mr Hutchings advised the Committee that with regard to the proposed Clareval Seam Bulk Sample Pit, works to date had only involved preliminary planning. Mr Greenwood asked why the proposed bulk sample excavation was not raised at the last CCC meeting. Advice was provided that the activity was seen as minor and approval process did not require any formal consultation with the CCC. SCPL committed to advising CCC of such proposed activity in future.

Mr Greenwood also asked that the Company advise neighbours of land it has purchased to maintain appropriate property management practices such as bushfire management. This was raised because Gloucester Coal Limited has purchased two neighbouring properties without advising him.

Rainwater Tank Testing by Gloucester Shire Council

Mr Wilcox tabled results data from a sampling round of five (5) rainwater tanks from each of Stratford, Barrington and Copeland Villages conducted on 23rd November 2010. A full report is to be provided to Council.

Midcoast Water conducted the analytical testwork and to date had provided GSC with draft results. The final report will be tabled at the next Council meeting. The draft report indicated exceedances of the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG) for zinc, aluminium, iron, lead and turbidity concentrations occurred for a single sample from both the Stratford and Barrington Villages. Exceedance of the ADWG was considered to prompt recommended further investigation and to not necessarily imply actual danger. Mr Wilcox indicated that he had been advised the results were more likely to be reflective of the nature of the water tank and existing material within the tank on drinking water quality.

Mr Wilcox stated that no tanks sampled were found to employ first flush capture and that it was common for tanks not to have been cleaned.

Community Consultative Committee Changes

Background: the recently approved Duralie Extension Project requires that the existing Duralie Coal Mine CCC be replaced by a new CCC to be in place by the end of March 2011. The Development Consent allows for the establishment of a combined Duralie and Stratford CCC with the approval of the Department of Planning (DoP) Director General. The Stratford CCC is addressed under Schedule 5, Condition 5 of the recently approved modification to the current Stratford Coal Mine Development Consent. Mr Trotter undertook to send a copy of the Notice of Modification of the Development Consent for Stratford and Bowens Road North to Committee members.

Mr Greenwood asked whether the SCMCCC could get more information on the possible changes to the Committee? Mr Wilcox informed the Committee that the Committee was no longer a committee of Gloucester Council.

Mr Cribb stated that Stratford Coal Pty Ltd (SCPL) under Development Consent changes has a role in establishing the Committee but not for selecting members of the Committee. Mr Cribb also informed the Committee that SCPL proposes to confirm the selection process with the DoP considering the Director-General is responsible for the appointment of committee members and the chairperson. Mr Cribb also indicated that SCPL intends to consult with both Gloucester Shire Council and Great Lakes Council with respect to the process for nomination and advertisement as described in the DoP's Guidelines for Establishing CCCs. Mr Cribb also said that CCC Guidelines were available on the DoP website. Mr Trotter undertook to supply CCC members with these guidelines.

General discussion involved:

- Mr Williams asking about the turnover of Committee members;
- Clr Tersteeg asking members their opinion on a combined Committee;
- Mr Greenwood stating that the mines existed within different/distinct communities and that community membership stood to be diluted under a combined Committee;
- Mr Wilcox voiced his opinion that a single CCC would be beneficial since the current committees only “get half the picture” of the linked operation.

- Mr Williams further stated he would like to see the two Committees have a joint meeting a few times per year.
- The Chairman stated that he thought there may have been a better way to communicate to the Committee that this may be the last meeting of this Committee.

The Chairman thanked all members for their input to the Committee over the years.

Proposed Stratford Extension Project

Mr Dwyer advised the Committee that the Company is continuing baseline studies in such areas as flora, fauna and groundwater and is on track for an Environmental Assessment (EA) to be submitted to the State Government by the end of this year.

Documentation is to include the proposal for the Avon North, Stratford East and Stratford South Mining Pits together with the continuation of the Roseville operation.

Next Meeting

The date and venue for the next meeting of the Committee to be determined upon receipt of DoP approval of a Committee format.