

Ulan Coal Mines CCC Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday 16 December 2008

Attending Guests: Scott Lillis (SL), Bev Smiles (BS), Julie Imrie (JI), Gary Bruce (GB), John Webb (JW)

UCML Attendees - Phil English (PE), Jamie Lees (JL), Cheryl Holden (CH)

Apologies: Esme Martens, Gail Ratcliffe, Arthur Williams.

Chair: Gary Bruce

Date: 16 December 2008

Meeting Opened: 4.05pm

Meeting Closed: 8.00pm

1 PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Previous minutes were accepted as a true and correct record on the 16 Dec 2008.
Moved by BS and **Seconded** by PE.

Business Arising

Nil

2 OVERVIEW – OPERATIONAL UPDATE

PE gave operational update on mine. Key discussion points were:

- Mine plan update – long wall near 7 cut through LWW1, will be stopped for Christmas.
- 2008 production figures - >6 million tonnes will be mined in 2008. UCML currently the No 2 thermal coal producer for Xstrata Coal NSW.
- UCML Underground mine restructure – new GM Dan Clifford starts in early 2009, process management being implemented (focus on process outcomes, safe consistent production)

BS asked why production figures were so good this year compared to previous years.

PE advised that UCML had performed well this year in both development and the long wall. Also there were no major issues with water or any serious incidents such as geology, roof falls etc.

BS asked what the expected tonnage for 2008 was.

PE – 6.25 million tonnes

3 2008 YEAR IN REVIEW

General overview of the results / projects completed for 2008 given by PE, JL and CH. These included:

- Completion of open cut contract operations at Ulan
- Hydrocarbon remediation program and general Open Cut site cleanup
- Rehabilitation – 110ha reshaped this year. Currently seeding Barrier Pit area – approx 32ha.
- Commenced Ulan Coal Continued Operations Project including environmental studies and consultation
- Upgrade to RO Plant - Pre filtration plant opened 15 Nov 08
- Ulan Community Day 15 Nov 08
- SMP W2W3 – submitted to DPI (awaiting 2nd Workings Approval)
- Noise reduction program implemented (ongoing in 2009)
- Goulburn River Diversion Baseline Assessment completed
- Water management strategy implementation (ongoing in 2009)
- Resource conservation program – new waste management system implemented
- Salinity offsets program – continued monitoring
- Biodiversity and rehabilitation monitoring
- Moolarben/Transgrid interactions
- Social Involvement Program – increased donations in 2009
- Independent Environmental Audit completed as per DA 103-5-2005

JI asked whether UCML were adding topsoil to rehab areas.

PE – yes

JI asked whether UCML were investigating soil microbiology (Mt Owen have been undertaking investigations)

PE advised that Howard Wildman (from Microbial Management Systems) had been onsite doing a baseline assessment on soil in old and new rehab areas and also areas that have not yet been rehabilitated. Howard's report was received yesterday - PE will distribute results when understood from UCML's end.

BS asked whether the results can be presented at the next CCC meeting

PE – yes (see actions).

BS asked whether Howard was working with Mike Cole on the ACARP Project at Mt Owen.

PE – yes.

PE advised that he had also received the 2008 annual biodiversity monitoring report (draft) from Martin Denny. The results indicated that a number of threatened species have returned to the rehabilitation areas.

BS enquired if this included trend monitoring and if the report would be made available.

JL – outlined that the report did include trend analysis and the annual biodiversity monitoring reports are included in UCML's AEMR every year as an appendix.

SL asked how old the oldest rehab is

PE – 1991

SL asked whether the microbial monitoring will happen annually.

PE – not sure at this time – UCML awaiting advice from Howard on this however it may be every 2 years rather than annually.

JL added that annual biodiversity monitoring started at UCML in 1985. Martin Denny completed a review of all the data from 1985 – a report will be available

JI asked when UCML started using native endemic species in the rehab.

JL – Approximately 1996

JI asked whether there will be further consultation for the UCML Continued Operations Project – she had a call from a resident on Wongaroo Rd regarding mine traffic on the road and the lack of consultation. She was concerned for her health (suffers from asthma) and the deterioration of the road due to truck movements. She was also concerned about her groundwater bore and the fact that it is not being monitored by UCML.

JL advised that UCML have consulted all residents within a 2km radius of the project boundary. All other stakeholders further away from the operation have been receiving the Project information sheet by mail. Any vehicle movements up Wongaroo Road have been restricted to infrequent drill rig movements which have not occurred lately He said he will contact the concerned resident to discuss her concerns and ensure she is included in the next round of consultations (see actions).

SL asked what's happening with Ulan School (he'd heard that the school may be relocated)

JI said that this was raised at the Moolarben CCC meeting and under MCM conditions of approval they are to assist Ulan School if it was impacted by their operation.

4 WATER MANAGEMENT

In response to JI's enquiry relating to water management updates, PE provided graphs showing:

- Underground water levels and discharge volumes – water reports run every week. Explained approx 11.5ML/day discharge currently. Clarified peak on graph around April – fire suppression water contributing to discharge.
- Bobadeen Dam volumes and quality. Showed dam levels in % full and manual water quality readings. EC around 800 μ S/cm – good quality.
- Ulan Creek Discharge volumes – note nil discharge periods and low discharge due to CMF plant construction.
- Ulan Creek Discharge water quality – note nil discharge periods.

Note: Above graphs appended to minutes (Attachment 1).

JI asked how the actual water make in LWW1 compared to predicted water make

JL - actual was less than predicted (<3ML/day). Actual water make varied over the panel as it is a function of how much goafing has occurred. The variation may be a result of the pre-draining that occurred as part of the in seam drilling program prior to commencement of longwall mining.

JI asked which seam was being dewatered

PE – Coal seam

JI asked whether the underground discharge (on the graph) included all extraction bores

PE – yes. Two bores were not shown on graph – East 6 and 12. These are not currently being utilised.

JI asked whether UCML were extracting water from Triassic

PE – No.

PE asked if CCC members were happy with the graphs for water as they were graphs utilised internally for monitoring water volumes etc and it would be easy to have these presented each quarter rather than develop other figures.

The consensus was that the graphs were acceptable

JL added that UCML could show water report spreadsheet in the next meeting to show how complex the water management onsite is.

SL asked what the discharge limit was for EC

PE - 800 μ S/cm (50% of time) and 900 μ S/cm (100% of time)

JI asked what the OH levels of the discharge were (interested due to effect on algae in river)

PE – OH not required under EPL. PE outlined that periodically UCML undertake due diligence sampling outside the required parameters for metals etc and expect that OH can be added to the list of analytes within this sampling program (see actions).

JJ asked for UCML to provide a comparison of discharge water quality data to Goulburn River water quality data (see actions).

5 BBRA COMMUNITY RISK ASSESSMENT

PE explained risk assessment process – reviewing BBRA community risk assessment (aspects, controls, risk ranking)

CCC reviewed Tier 1 risk assessment in detail and other Tiers (2-5) in general. Traffic was a big issue – risk ranking increased for traffic related aspects of operation. BS advised that she would be pushing for cumulative traffic assessment of all 3 mines in order to determine the impact on roads given the lack of previous investigations.

JW outlined that MWRC is undertaking a review of contributions made by UCML.

BS indicated that she was not aware of any contributions as made by UCML, however PE advised that significant contributions had been made since the commencement of UCML's operations however these may not have always been spent on roads.

Due to time constraints, UCML are to finish reviewing and updating the risk assessment. UCML is to complete BBRA for Tiers 3-5 and send to CCC for comment (see actions).

6 APPROVALS

JL gave update on environmental studies for Continued Operations Project. Discussion on GR Diversion - JL gave update on preliminary geotechnical investigation from URS. Workshop scheduled for Friday 19 Dec 2008 to discuss investigation and options for rehabilitation engineering designs.

JL advised that he had been trying to obtain the proposed road upgrade works schedule from MWRC for the Ulan and Cope Roads to value-add the Traffic assessment study. This information had been requested verbally and by email a number of times with no information forthcoming. GB and JW were asked to follow this request up within Council.

BS asked for a copy of the DGR's to be distributed to CCC – see actions.

PE advised that no further information could be provided on the s96 (1A) Modification of Consent which includes Rowan's Dam RO Plant, CV 1097 installation and the increase in the Hub Stockpile approved levels or the SMP 2nd Workings Approval for LWW2 & LWW3 at this point.

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

PE thanked CCC members for their time and contributions this year and wished them the best for the Christmas period and 2009.

MEETING CLOSED: 8.00pm

Dinner: 8.15pm

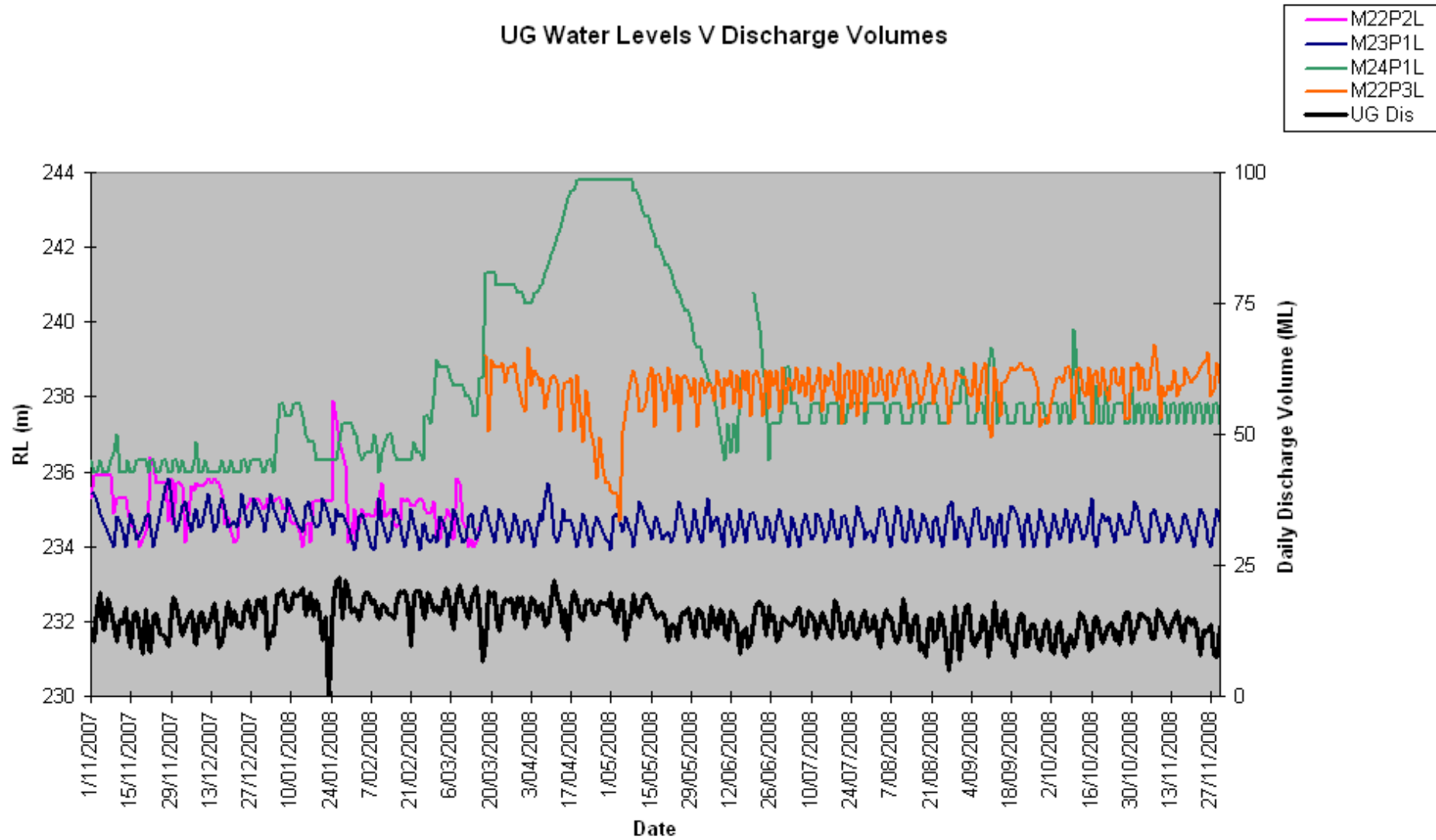
NEXT MEETING: TBA (early March 2009)

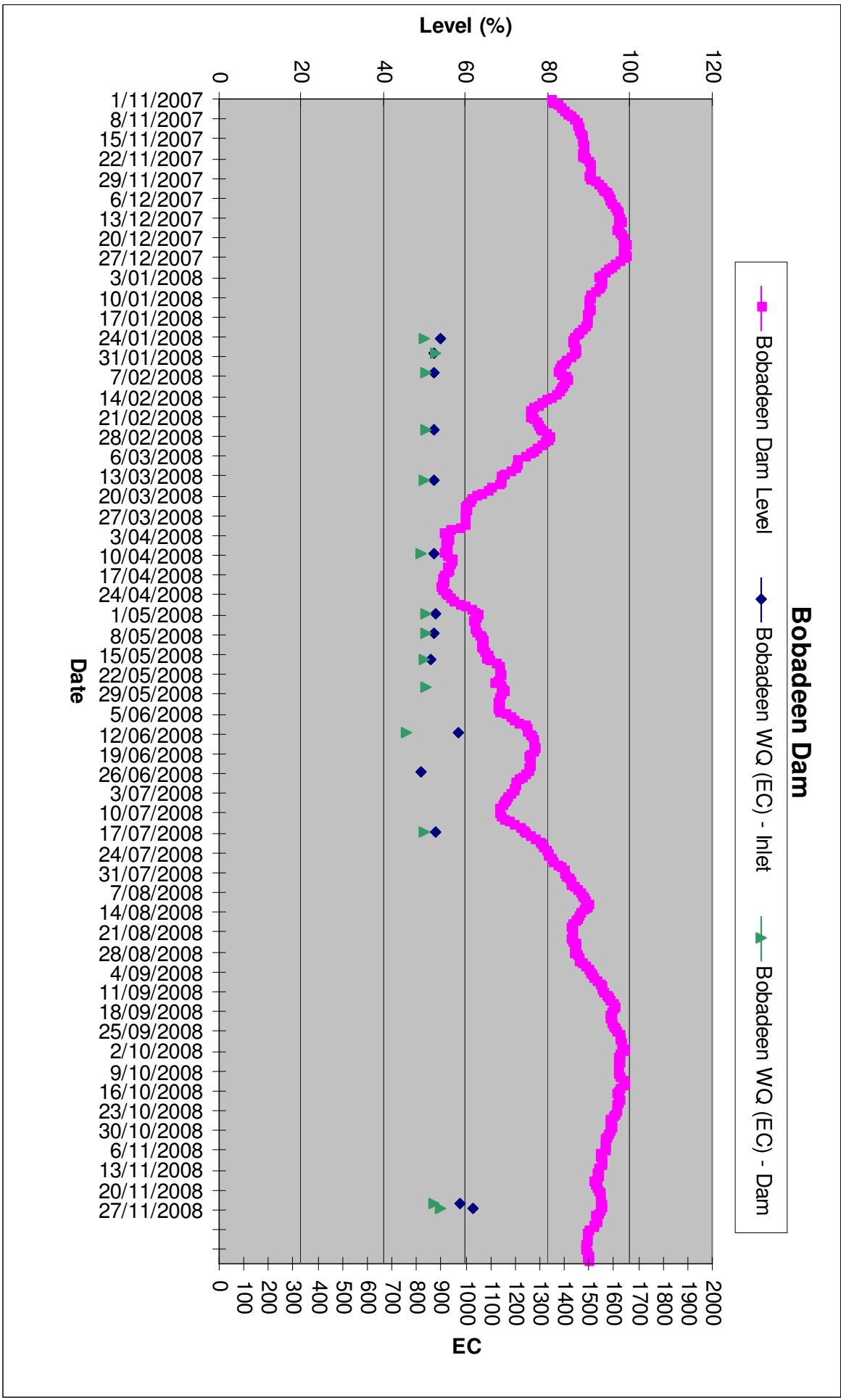
Action Status Table

ITEM	RAISED BY	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	STATUS
1	BS	Present results from soil microbiological testing at next CCC meeting	PE	Pending
2	JL	Contact concerned resident on Wongaroo Rd to discuss use of road by exploration vehicles	JL	Pending
3	JL	Add OH to list of analytes for monthly sampling of Ulan Creek discharge water	PE	Pending
4	JL	Present comparison of discharge WQ and Goulburn Rover WQ at next meeting	PE	Pending
5	PE	UCML to finish reviewing community risk assessment and sent out revised document for comment	PE	Pending
6	BS	Distribute Biodiversity Monitoring review	PE	Pending
7	BS	Distribute DGR's for Continued Operations Project EA	JL	Pending
8	JL	Follow up on JL's request for information on proposed road works for Ulan and Cope Roads	JW/GB	Pending

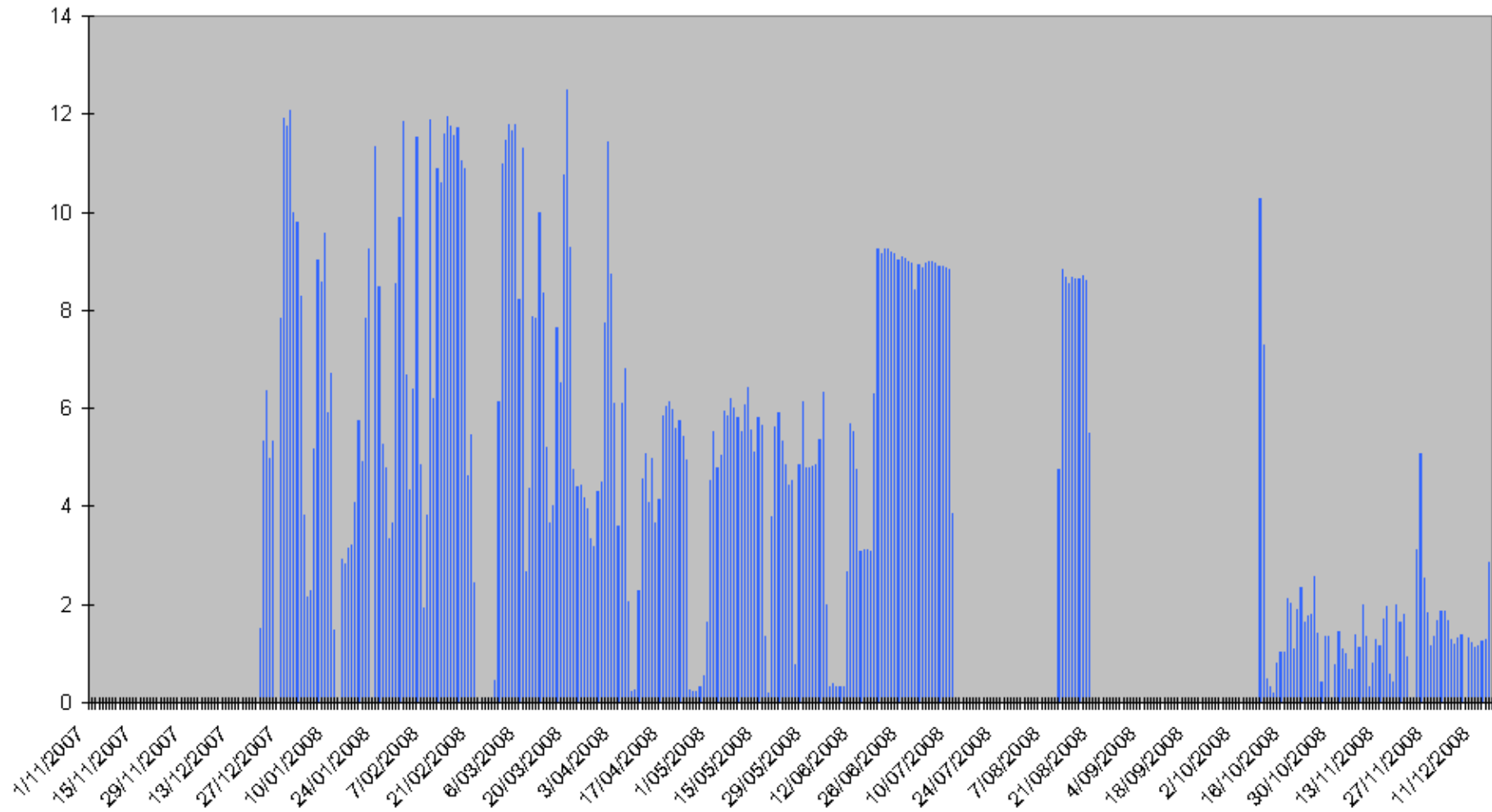
Attachment 1: Water Management Graphs

UG Water Levels V Discharge Volumes





Ulan Creek Discharge



Ulan Creek Discharge - Water Quality

