

Ulan Coal Mine

Community Consultative Committee Meeting

UCML Attendees - Phil English, Jamie Lees, Murray Wood

Attending Guests: Bev Smiles, Julia Imrie, Scott Lillis, Donna Power, Shannon McKiernan – Coakes Consulting (Community Survey).

Apologies: Mal Stokes, Nicole Croker

Acting Chair: Phil English (UCML) – No objections raised.

Date: 4th April 2006

Meeting Opened: 5.20 PM

Meeting Closed: 8.30pm

1 PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Minutes were previously accepted as a true and correct record on the 17th Nov 2006.

Business Arising

- 1.1 Forwarding the QLD research Paper - NOT ACTIONED
- 1.2 Executive summary of SMP not distributed to CCC - NOT ACTIONED
- 1.3 General discussion about SMP issues in relation to Ken Mills and David Paffard presentations and findings.
- 1.4 PE stated that UCML have found it hard to get assistance from NPWS Dubbo office in relation to Aboriginal heritage issues. Stephen Brag tried to get NPWS out to Ulan 3 times with no result. The issue appears to be a lack of resources from NPWS.
- 1.5 Public Exhibition of the SMP was with a Draft document. The SMP isn't a final document until all plans associated with SMP are approved i.e. archaeological plans etc. SMP is subject to an inter-agency review.
- 1.6 BS raised concerns over access to SMP during public display due to the large size of the document.

2 OVERVIEW

2.1 PE provided an overview of the current issues being faced by UCML, in particular

- Water balance discussion
- Staff and cultural changes occurring due to corporate decisions and also what is occurring locally as the coal mine industry develops at Ulan.
- Non Compliances have highlighted the ongoing issue of trying to consolidate 28 different licences covering current operations. – Long term project with no completion date.
- Fat Face project overview

3 WATER MANAGEMENT UPDATE

3.1 PE described the complexity of the UCML water management.

3.2 Water balance for the site has been developed by Umwelt.

- Conclusion of Umwelt was there is an annual surplus of 2000 ML (8.7 ML/day) impacting on water management.
 - 5ML /day required for washery.
 - Coal exported off site cannot have high water content as penalties apply if coal is greater than 10% moisture.

There was confusion on the “Water Make” surplus i.e. what is bought into the mine vs. what is used and lost over the site.

3.3 PE Described how the water is recycled within the open cut areas and identified the South 5 tailing dam leakage issue.

3.4 UCML had been discharging 5 ML every 2nd day down the Ulan Creek at < 1500 EC. In January 2006 this was halted with mine water being pumped into Bobadeen dam and increasing salinity levels to > 1500 EC.

3.5.1 To halt the ongoing issue of water cycling between Open Cut and Underground an investigation was undertaken to develop a strategy to “Break the Cycle”.

3.6 Strategies

- Relocating South 5 tailing dam into the East Pit.
- Relocated Open Cut crusher and conveyer to allow for the relocation of the new tailings dam as well as using East Pit as main water holding storage.
- Construct RO plant to treat water to allow off site discharge.
- Look at discharge in both Eastern & Western Catchments.

JI raised concerns about discharging into the Talbragar as it is the Goulburn river that is the effected not the Talbragar.

3.7 Aiming to discharge at 1200 EC discharge in short term and 800 EC in the long term. UCML are mindful of CMA Catchment targets.

- 3.8 PE Described RO plant and associated operations and described the disposal option for salt through the CHPP.
- 3.9 The reason why the RO option has not been considered previously as a viable proposition is due to cost. With changing technology the cost has reduced significantly. i.e. the electricity requirements for the RO plant is 1/3 the current requirement to pump the water all around the mine site.

4 ULAN CREEK DISCHARGE

- 4.1 UCML has consulted the government agencies in relation to the Ulan Creek discharge proposal and all are in acceptance.
- 4.2 The implications of No Discharge = No Mine for a period of time, therefore discharge of 12ML/day required to be achieved in order to ensure continued operations
- 4.3 UCML is committed to 1200 EC not 90%-ile salinity levels.
- 4.5 REF being developed to assess discharge from Bobadeen dam to Ulan Creek
- 4.6 Areas of degradation within Ulan creek were assessed and photographic record of the creek has been developed.
- 4.7 Erosion control structures to be installed to reduce erosion potential from the proposed discharge
- 4.8 Subsidence of Ulan Creek was noted and discussed (result of highwall mining previously undertaken within area). UCML acknowledge it is not a desirable position to be in.
- 4.9 In undertaking stability controls UCML to ensure path of least resistance occurs, i.e. minimal clearing.
- 4.10 Refuge ponds to be constructed along Ulan creek as harbour for macro invertebrates – minimal disturbance to vegetation.
- 4.11 Comprehensive monitoring program to be instigated.

5 GOULBURN RIVER DIVERSION

- 5.1 Confusion between the Coffey's investigation and the Umwelt investigation.
- 5.2 Bores in Goulburn Alluvium are indicating that water is moving away from river during high flows and then flow back towards the river during low flows. No impact on Underground mines.
- 5.3 Coffey's are doing more investigation into the interaction with Goulburn River and East Pit.

- 5.4 JI identified that the potential impact from the realignment of the Goulburn River is the reduction in base flows from the alluvial that would have originally existed pre alignment.
- 5.6 A survey of the Goulburn River is proposed to determine the baseline health of the Realignment. Co resources will be undertaking the survey. This investigation is proposed to be completed by September 2006.

6 NOISE

- 6.1 UCML has received a number of complaints.
- 6.2 JI raised the issue on allowances going over 5 DB. PE described that the Industrial noise policy on noise pollution / noise investigation is based on background noise of a Greenfield sites. Tolerance in Background noise is 35 db + 5 db. Background noise threshold is 35 db.
- 6.3 Noise from Ulan is approx 45 db. This exceeds background noise levels, however the age of the site predates the noise legislation introduced in 2000.
- 6.4 The overland conveyor is a source of the noise due to its elevated dominance in the landscape.
- 6.5 Noise reduction program to be in place by June 2006 as part of new consent conditions.
- 6.6 Open Cut will be closing at the end of 2007 as it will become uneconomic to keep mining due to the strip ratios. The open cut will be putting in a new development application for a small extension.
- 6.7 Discussion of final void management.
- 6.8 Noise monitoring has been done by a Barn Owl based at Ulan. They have identified a low frequency noise which will travel long distances.
- 6.9 Action plan has been implemented to reduce noise pollution of new noise in relation to the overland conveyor. There is an ongoing issue to reduce noise within the washery...
- 6.10 Actions
- Return idlers replaced ASAP
 - Tag out and change noisy rollers – maintenance issue.
 - New rollers to be installed on gantry within the next 2 months.

7 DUST

- 7.1 UCML has a network of Dust deposition gauges around mine site.
- 7.2 A number of additional dust generators occurred over the month of March due to road works and Malcolm Power Ploughing a paddock.

- 7.3 Wind monitoring data doesn't correlate with complainants' dates and times when dust was an issue.
- 7.4 Petrie dishes have been put out at the complainants' houses to allow for the analyses of dust particles.

8 VIEWPOINT PROGRAM – Coakes Consulting

- 8.1 Program to assess and understand community's views and perceptions on Xstrata and its operations.
- 8.2 Interviewing individual landholders, Government Agencies Service Providers, Local Government within individual communities.
- 8.3 Identify community engagement practices.

9 ACTIONS

- 9.1 Address new guidelines on CCC.
- 9.2 Review what data should be presented at CCC meetings.
- 9.3 Send CCC requested information in 1.1.-1.2
- 9.4 JI requested a copy of 2005 AEMR.

Meeting Closed: 8.30 pm

Next Meeting: Monday 5th June 2006 To be Confirmed.