

Ulan Coal Mine
Community Consultative Committee Meeting
Minutes 13th June 2007

Attendees: Julia Imrie, Gary Bruce (MWRC), Esmé Martin (MWRC), Nigel Charnock (XCN)

UCML Representatives: Phil English, Jamie Lees, Nathan Lane.

Apologies: Scott Lillis, Bev Smiles, Arthur Williams, Gail Radcliffe

Chair: Garry Bruce (MWRC)

Review of Previous Minutes

- JI made a comment relating to the discussion concerning the accuracy of information provided externally by CCC members concerning UCML operations. JI advised that any information divulged outside CCC is an accurate representation of UCML issues as she understands them. JI advised that PE contacts have been provided to the Goulburn River Water Users Association.

Minutes moved as a true and correct record

Moved: Jamie Lees 2nd: Julia Imrie

Subsidence Management Plan (SMP)

PE provided an update of W2 & W3 SMP area

- BBRA conducted for environmental issues within the application area. BBRA distributed to Gov't Agencies for review.
- Technical surveys have been completed.
- Review of surrounding licensed borehole status to be completed (9km Radius).
- Subsidence report to be concluded.
- Submission of SMP June – July 2007 with approval sought by April 2008.

JI asked if Ken Mills had resolved the issue that Moolarben IHP raised concerning the cracking of strata above the longwall and the impact on ground water drawdown. PE outlined Ken Mill's findings on UCML's experience with upper strata cracking but could not elaborate on Moolarben's issues.

Water Management Update

- PE identified the Long term discharge is critical the UCML water management strategy. In light of this UCML has purchased the RO Plant.
- S58 application has been lodged with a criterion of 800 EC 50% and 900 EC 100% with 15 ML per day. License approval is eminent.
- JI questioned DEC position on Western discharge; PE indicated that a Western Discharge was not considered in this variation.
- PE indicated that consultation had occurred with community via community newsletter. In general positive feedback was received.
- PE indicated that preliminary discussions had been held with Wilpinjong Coal as Wilpinjong has requested access to UCML Water via a water sharing agreement of up to 2 – 3 ML per day.
- PE indicated that UCML has held discussions with WCP, however no formal commitments has been made to date.
- JI asked about impacts of the recent rain on underground. JI indicated that it is too early to tell what the impact will be due to the Lag effects on ground water system. Future monitoring will pick up the effect from the recent rainfall event.

Life of Mine Plan

Presentation given by Jamie Lees

- Mine Closure review due to the development of a new standard by XCN
- End of current open cut operation due in end 2008
- JI questioned the definition of rehabilitation and underlined the importance of restoring native vegetation to achieve a self sustaining or stable ecosystem.
- Noted the importance of acknowledging that Ulan complex is due for closure in 2035 and void would be utilized for reject disposal etc for site closure
- UCML Closure plan is consistent with the DPI Guidelines (NC)
- JI questioned how the conceptual plan deals with the tailings dams within the rail loop and the East Pit – PE indicated that the removal of tailings has been costed under conceptual rehabilitation costing and it is envisaged that tailings would be removed to voids as part of final closure
- UCML's intention is to convene a further meeting with CCC to review closure criteria

Noise Reduction Plan

Presentation given by PE on Noise Status

- Presentation given to the CCC was previously given to MWRC
- Community climate has changed in regards to coal mining.
- Complaints are dominated by certain individuals; however other complainant's have been registered.
- UCML has installed a real time noise logger which has allowed UCML to investigate noise complaints in detail and listen to audio files. This unit is mobile and is rotated around different locations and complainant's residence.
- From the Investigations truck noise can be a major attributable to the noise complaints.
- Currently UCML has undertaken detailed investigations into identifying and quantifying noise sources on site i.e. acoustic scanning.
 - Information from investigations have assisted in the development of an action plan
 - Draft Action plan has been development and currently being refined by engineering designs.
 - Once developed the plan will be submitted to DEC and the plan will become part of UCML EPL Pollution Reduction Plan.
- Noise Levels have been measured at the receptor i.e. Ulan Village and UCML is committed to addressing noise issues at the source and not undertaking mitigation actions at the receptor.
- GB asked how the agreed noise level was achieved. PE stated that DOP took into consideration of the time UCML operations have been in existence and what would be 'reasonable and feasible' under the consent conditions to achieve noise reduction. PE indicated that noise levels were higher than the accepted levels and that site would be looking at levels of around 39 dB as an agreed noise target.
- Conveyors have been identified as the most intrusive noise on site and therefore efforts will be made in Q3 & 4 2007 to replace noisy rollers.
- Some discussion on low frequency noise as a health issue for local residents and whether it is monitored under current conditions.

Goulburn River

Presentation given by JL

- Investigations into interactions have been hampered by lack of flow within the Goulburn River
- River peaked under the recent rainfall event on the 8/6/07
- JI commented that she had observed sediment slugs in river flow as flood levels are falling, leaving unsightly residue on sand base and encouraging algae blooms in pools and that the instability of diversion channel could be contributing to these events.
- JI asked about the water quality coming from Dronvisa after the recent rainfall events – JL has samples however it was not included in presentation given on Goulburn River water Quality.
- The finalisation of the Goulburn River investigation due approximately August 2007.
- JL provided water analysis data taken during the Goulburn River Flow event during the 8th & 9th June 2007. These samples tested pH, EC and TSS. Results from this testing indicated that water quality leaving the Diversion improved in reference to water quality entering the diversion from upstream catchments. The improvement in water quality would be associated with the dense reed beds but does not detract from the bank erosion that is occurring within the diversion.

Good Neighbors Program

Presentation by NL

- Ulan project partners under Good Neighbours Program established by XC with Conservation Volunteers. NL gave feedback on 2006 works program and presented the proposed project program for 2007.
- JI asked about the native species to be planted. NL indicated that species planted will be used based on species identified during baseline vegetation assessment
- SJ Landscapes undertaking baseline assessment
- JI highlighted that another chemical had been developed to eradicate Tree of Heaven

Community Broad Brush Risk Assessment

Presented by Jamie Lees

- UCML intend to review every 2 years
- BBRA is a formal facilitated process and identifies any risks that may relate to UCML's operations
- Stakeholder availability, JL questioned peoples availability on the 26th or 29th June 2007, however needs to be developed on a day that is suitable to all parties. June the 28th appeared to be the most suitable.

General Business

- JI questioned submission by UCML on Wilpinjong s96 Modification. PE indicated that UCML raised concerns to the current state of the road and ability of road to cater for increased traffic load within submission

Meeting close: 18.45pm