

Ulan Coal Mine

Community Consultative Committee Meeting

Minutes 3rd December 2007

Attendees: Julia Imrie, Bev Smiles, Gary Bruce (MWRC), Esme Martens (MWRC), Julia Imrie (CCC/ HRCMA), Robert Hodge (MWRC)

UCML Representatives: Phil English, Jamie Lees, Nathan Lane, Cheryl Holden, Murray Wood,

Apologies: Scott Lillis, Gail Ratcliffe

Chair: Garry Bruce

Review of Previous Minutes

Accepted by meeting

Minutes Moved as a true and correct record

Moved: Jamie Lees 2nd: Julia Imrie.

Meeting Minutes

- Cheryl Holden was introduced to CCC as a new environment and Community Officer for Ulan Mine

Operational Update

- PE updated CCC on the operational challenges due to the geological intrusions (sill) in the open cut. MW indicated this was creating challenges in the washing and conveying process.
- BS asked why the Barrier Pit was not mined previously. MW indicated this was not mined previous due to the old underground workings. These old underground working have been abandoned and sealed allowing for the coal reserves to be mined.
- PE detailed the tailing emplacement change from the South 5 Tailings dam to the East Pit Tailings dam.
- BS asked where the water was going from South 5 Tailings Dam? MW indicated Main North Pumping Station was capturing water in the old sealed headings of the underground mine and pumping this water to the East Pit Storage.
- BS asked what material was being used to cap the South 5 Tailings Dam? PE indicated this would be free dig material from the Barrier Pit. When the Tailings Dam dries the dragline would be used to place this capping material over the South 5 tailings dam and shape the area to ensure consistency with the approved final landform.

- JI asked what was happening water from the East Pit Tailings dam and whether investigations were completed to see if there was interaction between exterior environment and East Pit storage area? PE indicated there was a series of bores along the East Pit to see if there were variances. BS asked what volume of water was in the East Pit Tailing? PE indicated monitored each week. PE indicated 2500ML in the East Pit Storage and the East Pit Tailings which is situated in the East Pit Storage was surveyed weekly by Open Cut. BS asked about the results from the interactions were? JL stated that monitoring had suspended for the short term until Coffey's GRDBA Report had been finalized and further recommendations for monitoring are made. This report is pending.
- JI raised concerns about the Yallorn disaster and relevance to East Pit storage and Goulburn River? MW stated this facility was 25 years old and had seen significant rain events. PE stated Yallorn was different situation and appreciated the concern. The rock structure was different in the Ulan case and highwall stability was not an issue in the current operation. **Action - study of the highwall stability of barrier between East Pit and Goulburn River.**
- BS asked if there was going to be a final void at closure? PE stated it was not the intention to have a void. All voids will be used for reject emplacement for the Life of Mine which will allow final landforms to be achieved creating a free draining stable landscape. PE stated this was consistent with the management approach for relocating South 5 tailings facility to the to the East pit. BS requested that monitoring be reinstated to east pit barrier to monitor hydraulic behaviour between east pit and Goulburn River. PE agreed that monitoring should be reinstated on periodic basis. **Action – recommence monitoring of bores along Goulburn River adjacent to the East Pit to monitor potential interactions**
- MW stated that longwall block had been removed early due to strata control issues. MW stated that startup of the "fat Face" in LW 24 had been very successful and the longwall had retreated 360m to date. It is anticipated that the longwall would be taken off the panel early. These were due to Kieran's plug and Williams plug which were geological issues restricting the panel length. MW stated changes in roof conditions had been mitigated through an investment in roof support infrastructure. 3 development units were currently working the mine.
- MW indicated the mini mains were formed due the geological plugs not allowing for all main tunnel headings to be developed in parallel. MW sated that monitoring has increased and so had the bolting pattern. JI asked would this continue for life of mine? MW stated that he hoped this would not be the case, however, investigations were still continuing. PE stated that geophysical logging has occurred to see whether there was a relationship between the surface flora and the geological anomalies.
- JI asked what the water draw down was? PE stated at the make was approximately 3.2ML per day in the new longwall block.

Water Management Update

- PE stated UCML had discharged 694ML to date for 2007 and that there was a capacity to discharge 15ML/Day. PE stated that UCML were not discharging at the moment. PE indicated the CMF unit will be installed at the RO plant to allow for greater filtration efficiencies. PE stated there was more work which needed to be completed for a discharge strategy.
- JI advised that the discharge strategy should take into account the draw down of the upper aquifers. PE indicated that optimally this would be the case, however given the predictions in water make, operational considerations make take precedence, however further work is required to address this matter.
- JI asked that what the impact the CMF were? PE stated that there were efficiencies and that this would allow the continuous discharge. JL stated that this due the filter changes.
- JI asked about Bobadeen leakage? JL stated this was contained and pumped from the blend dam to Bobadeen.

- JI asked when the discharge would occur? PE stated most likely before Christmas. JL stated this would not be in large amount as UCML don't want to risk the irrigation scheme.
- PE showed a hydrograph which has showed movement in various aquifers following rainfall event that occurred in June 2007. This hydrograph is adjacent to current longwall and showed a drop in the Jurassic Sandstone SWL immediately before the June rainfall event and increase following the rainfall event. JL stated that traditionally the Triassic were quick response to climatic events.
- BS asked about water management during the June event. PE stated UCML had an unauthorized discharge event from a licensed discharge point and DECC was notified. PE stated that the discharge event was a result of the Storm event being 1:30 ARI and UCML maintaining only 1:20ARI controls. The sites pumping ability and other measures could not control the inflow to truck fill dam and after a day and a half UCML discharged. UCML utilised the East Pit Storage during this event. JL stated that the goal was to draw down the East Pit storage through investment of the parallel pipeline. PE stated that free board in dams was not an issue at present but is mindful of the potential make for the site after June 2007 rainfall.
- PE stated that permanent discharge was critical. BS stated that the rainfall would effect other uses like dust suppression. PE stated this was the case and site water balance modeled and takes this into account when managing water inventory.
- JL stated that water balances were done every six months to asses with operational changes.

Community BBRA

- JL indicated the 2007 Community BBRA was a revision of 2003 BBRA and involved 10 community members. JL stated the BBRA is the basis of UCML EMS through identifying high risk.
- JL identified high risk aspects and the scoring system used to rank the aspects. JL indicated noise profile had increased from the 2003 BBRA.
- BS said operation had changed since 2003 BBRA. PE stated that operation had changed but the UCML has investigated noise levels, and in fact noise levels had not increased, however the type of noise and nature of the noise had altered as a result of changes to the operation.
- EM questioned whether people that attended the risk assessment were to receive a copy of the report. It was agreed that a copy of the assessment be provided. **Action: send BBRA to CCC and Community members.**
- PE stated that resources were aimed at these high risk activities.
- BS stated the dB(a) was exponential and PE stated this was the case and makes the NRP challenging.
- PE indicated that in a recent audit the inclusion of community members within the BBRA was acknowledged as best practice from independent auditors.
- BS would like to view the sites EMS and PE acknowledged that he would like to have the CCC review all management plans starting with plans which managed high risk aspects. **Action: EMS plans to be presented based on high risk at next CCC.**
- BS asked when the AEMR was due? PE stated this was due was December 30 and would be distributed to government agencies and the CCC. PE asked CCC member if CD was a suitable media? CCC agreed to this for distribution.

Subsidence Management Plan

- PE indicated the SMP for W2 and W3 will be finished in short term. **Action: clarify exhibition period. CD to be supplied to CCC. PE stated this would be before Christmas.**
- PE stated this would be advertised and comment would be taken.
- PE stated the SMP applies to UCML owned land with some significant heritage sites.

- PE stated that groundwater make would increase from 11ML to 18ML in 2012. This increase is consistent with what has previously been presented to the CCC.
- PE stated that bores modeling of groundwater indicated that there may be bore that could be impacted by the underground operations. For the purposes of many of the bores they will be in the Jurassic's. PE stated the Ulan seam aquifer may be impacted up to 11km from longwall from Coffey's initial predictions.
- JI asked what the contributions were from various levels in the strata and should the discharge strategy be developed based on the impacts on the base flow contributing aquifers / environmental flows? PE stated that the predicted impacts on aquifers within the strata were presented at the last meeting and would be included in the new SMP dealt with in the SMP. PE stated there would only be limited predicted impact on third party bores, however UCML were committed to a monitoring program to assess 3rd party bores under the SMP.
- BS asked whether there would be a difference between those coming from the east and west side of the great diving range. PE stated the regional groundwater monitoring network was investigating this.
- BS asked that with increased water make will UCML be looking at the opportunity to release water into the upper Talbragar Catchment. PE stated this may be investigated with inter-catchments equity in mind. PE stated that a Development Approval would have to be sought for this.
- PE stated further work was needed and the introduction of vibrating wire peizometers and the near goaf impacts. PE indicated Gang Li DPI thought this was best practice.
- PE stated that there was no third order stream in the SMP area but surface controls were to be taken into account. These creek systems were Mona and Ulan Creek System. Post mining surveys would be conducted.
- PE detailed future action included segregations, discharge, water sharing, irrigation and potentially western discharge.
- PE updated the CCC on the Aboriginal Archeological SMP for W2 and W3. Further investigation was needed to determine whether these were significant under the provisions of DA113-12-98. BS asked whether it took into account other sites which had already been destroyed by the mine? PE said that this would have been a consideration initially in the determination of ML1468.
- PE stated that under the Heritage Plan a section 87 would be completed to determine level of significance. If these were not significant a section 90 would be sought.

Environmental Program

- JL provided an update of mine rehabilitation at the Open Cut. Indicated that 38 ha land is currently undergoing rehabilitation, with the reshaped area to be sown on the 10th December with seed collected locally.
- JI asked whether the sowing replicated local vegetation communities. GB asked how seasons dictated response. JL stated that endemic seeds collected locally were sown and that the seed was sown at different percentages of species. The seeding however did not represent exact communities i.e. Angophora Woodlands but reflected the diversity of local species. JL also agreed with GB that climatic conditions dictated the success of the planting programs.
- PE indicated that UCML had a topsoil deficit. JL indicated that previous work of seeding into spoil had been successful however topsoil was invaluable.
- JL showed final contours of the agreed final landform.

Noise Reduction Plan

- PE outlined 5 trucks removed from site and two diggers stood down due to barrier pit operation. NRP still waiting approval from DECC. UCML still going ahead and Polly rollers have been installed on some conveyors. Construction certificate submitted for shrouding of CV5003/01.

- PE stated UCML was an old site and needed to be brought up to new standards. Constitutes a final noise level of approximately 38dB following the introduction of NRP.

Community

UCML and Associated Sponsors Golf Day.

- NL stated that \$31296.88 was raised from the charity golf day for state, regional and local charities,
- NL stated that donation of \$15,000 went to the Cure for Life Foundation to aid in funding a research fellowship, \$10,000 went to Mudgee Hospital to fund a new cardiac monitor for the emergency ward and \$6,296.88 was donated to Ulan Public School to upgrade the internet server.

Biannual newsletter

- Due out by end of December and will be distributed to 420 stakeholders. (15 km radius around the mine)
- Educational tours of UCML were conducted with Mudgee High School Yr 9 Science students. These tours explained the mining process and environmental impacts and mitigation to approximately 120 students.

WEMP

- NL stated Vegetation mapping completed and report was in final draft.
- NL stated Willow eradication has been completed on 8km of Goulburn River upstream of the Drip. This will continue in 2008 into the tributaries of Sportsman Hollow and Moolarben Creek.
- Conservation Volunteers Australia assisted in planting 4300 trees planted adjacent to Goulburn River Diversion. These trees were sourced from local supplier from endemic seed collected onsite.
- Ulan Creek Tree of Heaven control 90% complete in Eastern Area. CVA commencing Western area and is 10% completed.

Aboriginal Engagement Strategy

- JL provided an overview of the Engagement Strategy and detailed how the strategy will give guidance to ongoing relationships and engagement
- JL stated that initial meeting had been held.

Audits

- PE stated UCML has undergone a significant number of internal and external Audits during the previous three months.
- PE stated that all audits have seen a positive trend with increasing performance score demonstrating continuous improvement in environmental management for the operation.

General Business

- GB requested that a site inspection be given in 2008 to provide Cr Martens and Rob Hodge
- GB indicated that RH would be representing MWRC from this point forward. RH indicated he was the new environmental officer with MWRC.
- JI requested that a strategy be developed to address the loss of the base flow of the River and impact on ground water make.
- Moolarben have quantified the impact on the River and JI indicted that impact may be higher than predicted.

- It was requested that for next years CCC meetings that meetings not occur on Wednesday. Monday is the day of preference. UCML will distribute proposed CCC meeting dates in 2008

UCML thanked all CCC members for their time and commitment throughout 2007 and wished them and their families and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Meeting close: 19.00pm

Next CCC Meeting: TBA