

MINUTES

Inaugural Meeting of the Wongawilli Colliery Community Consultative Committee Tuesday, 28 August 2012

Held at Wongawilli Community Hall, West Dapto Road, Wongawilli

ATTENDANCE:

Col Gellatly	- Chairperson
Lois Burgess	- Community Representative
Katrina McDonald	- Community Representative
Kevin Roots	- Community Representative
Peter Turner	- Community Representative
Ron Zwicker	- Wollongong City Council
Rhys Brett	- Operations Manager (NRE)
Dave Clarkson	- Group Approvals Manager (NRE)
Chris Irving	- Environment & Community Manager (NRE)
Mat Campbell	- Environment and Community Relations Manager (NRE)

Col Gellatly declared the meeting open at 6.40 pm.

All present introduced themselves and declared their interests.

Col Gellatly gave an overview of the Community Consultative Committee (CCC) guidelines and general meeting rules.

COMPANY REPORTS AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES:

Group Approvals Manager – Dave Clarkson

Dave Clarkson gave a detailed presentation on the approval applications for the Nebo Extraction Plan and Subsidence Management Plan (SMP). A copy is appended to these minutes.

In November 2011, Gujarat NRE (NRE) received planning approval to extract from Nebo Longwalls 1 to 6, however an extraction plan is also required. An SMP approval for the same extraction is required by the Division of Resources and Energy (DRE). Both applications have been lodged.

All approvals will be placed on NRE's website (www.gujaratnre.com.au). The SMP approval will be placed on the DRE's website.

Approval to commence extraction of Longwall 2 is required by November 2012.

Col Gellatly asked what is being extracted at present. Dave answered that extraction is now occurring at Elouera from Longwalls 11, 12, 19, 20, 16 and 15. There are no longwalls 13, 14, 17 or 18. Wongawilli covers three mining leases, which have been consolidated into one mining area.

Peter Turner asked how deep below Avon Lake would be mined. Dave advised approximately 70 metres. Col Gellatly questioned which approval covers this. Dave advised that this area is classified as a *Dam Safety Notification Area*, which is regulated by the Dams Safety Committee (DSC). NRE will be required to get approval to mine in this area from the DSC. Conditions of any approval will require NRE to monitor the area and report regularly to the DSC.

Peter asked about the volume of water expected when driving out. Dave will investigate and advise if the volume has been estimated and provide this information to the next meeting.

Peter also asked where the water is disposed. Dave: the water is re-used, stored in underground dams or pumped out (NRE is allowed to pump out up to 10 ML per day). Historically, the most that NRE has pumped out is around four ML.

Dave stated that NRE is in the process of submitting a Part 3A modification approval to allow a ventilation shaft to be installed for the western drive and proposed longwalls in the Avon area.

The existing power easement will need to be extended.

NRE is trying to increase production from 2 mtpa (million tonnes per annum) to 3 mtpa. This is in relation to the six Nebo longwalls. Various streams and swamps are situated in the area, requiring NRE to undertake exhaustive studies of flora, fauna, heritage, etc. The DSC will allow mining under stored waters only if it can be proved safe to do so, however, NRE is not intending to mine under stored waters.

Peter asked if we would be driving under stored waters in the 'first workings.' Dave: Yes, we will be.

Katrina McDonald asked how long it takes to load a train. Dave: approximately 90 minutes. Katrina asked from where the shuddering noise emanates. At times, from late evening to early morning, her windows shake with the noise. Dave advised that the trains do not operate after 10.00 pm and the stockpile does not operate after 6.00 pm. Chris Irving will bring the site-specific conditions to the next meeting. This information is on the NRE website.

Environment & Community Manager, Wongawilli – Chris Irving

Chris Irving gave a presentation on the NRE Wongawilli Colliery Stage 2 Expansion Project.

Col Gellatly asked whether there have been any dust complaints. Katrina commented that dust is a constant problem. She would like to see train loads covered, as are trucks. Col requested that information on the feasibility of providing coal train covers be presented to the next meeting.

Kevin Roots commented that the expense to cover loads would be excessive. He referred to the possibility of using a substance that can be sprayed onto the loads to prevent dust and eventually dissolve.

Chris advised there are numerous historical complaints of dust. A register of complaints is to be placed on NRE's website.

'Depositional Dust Sites' are to be installed in a few weeks' time. Chris explained how the dust gauges work. Col asked for a report on the dust gauges to be provided at the next meeting.

COMMUNITY ISSUES:

Katrina: Main concerns are dust issues and the shuddering noise from the trains. Dave said that the trains do fill up from the bins during the night but not from the stockpile. This will be investigated.

Col questioned whether Kevin hears the noise. Yes, Kevin hears three horn blasts and the noise from the locos. Katrina commented that the noise on one occasion was so deep that it could be heard while watching a movie.

Lois Burgess: Her interest is on a broader environmental basis.

Kevin asked about previous mention of a new road into the colliery. Dave said that this is still an option being considered but will not happen in the near future for financial reasons. Col suggested that the issue be brought up at the CCC should it be considered by NRE again.

ACTIONS ARISING:

- Dave Clarkson to investigate the question about the volume of water expected when driving out.
- Chris Irving to provide to the next meeting the site-specific conditions relating to operations of the trains and coal stockpile.
- Shuddering noise allegedly caused by the trains to be investigated.
- Information on the feasibility of providing coal train covers to be presented at the next meeting.
- Register of dust and noise complaints to be placed on NRE's website.
- Chris Irving to provide a report on the dust gauges.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

General discussion was held regarding future meeting dates. Three to four meetings to be held per year. It was agreed that the **next meeting** be held on **Tuesday, 30 October at 6.30 pm at the Wongawilli Community Hall**. The schedule for future meetings will be set at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm.