



BENGALLA MINE COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE



Minutes of Meeting No. 85

Location: Bengalla Mining Company Board Room

Date: Wednesday 25th February 2009

Present:

Name	Affiliation
Karen Portolan	Councillor/Chairperson
Colin Bates	CCC member
Kevin Lecky	CCC member
Craig Flemming	Muswellbrook Shire Council
Andrea Sutton	Bengalla Mining Company (General Manager)
Craig Ypinazar	Bengalla Mining Company (Services Manager)
Kylie Argent	Bengalla Mining Company (Community Relations)

Meeting opened: 4.10pm

1. APOLOGIES:

Sharon Green	Bengalla Mining Company (Environmental Specialist)
Michael Loyde	Department Primary Industry
Malcolm Ogg	Councillor/ Deputy Chairperson
Glenn Lyons	Catchment Management Authority
Sam Haddad	Department of Planning

Apologies moved: Colin Bates

Seconded: Kevin Lecky

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Accepted: Colin Bates

Seconded: Andrea Sutton

Kylie Argent commented that the minutes from the last meeting had been condensed from previous meetings and asked the committee if they were happy to receive the more condensed version of the minutes. All agreed.

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNARY INTEREST

Nil

4. ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- Craig Flemming to check if Col Bates nomination for Bengalla CCC had been accepted, checked and confirmed.

Status: Completed

5. OTHER BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Nil

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- Nil correspondence received during November 2008 – February 2009.

7. REVIEW OF CCC GUIDELINES

- A review of guidelines was conducted to outline major areas for new CCC members. It was explained that Bengalla is operating under the Department of Planning CCC guidelines along with specific instructions outlined in Bengalla's Consent Conditions.
- It was noted that Bengalla has positions vacant on its CCC.
- Craig Flemming informed members that nomination forms are located on the council website if members know of interested land holders or community group members who maybe interested in nominating for the BMCCC to advise them to obtain a nomination form from the council website. www.muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au
- Craig Flemming commented about notice of meetings 28 days before the meeting. Kylie confirmed that meeting dates have been set for 2009 and all have been informed of these dates either by electronic email meeting invite or through the meeting minutes. Agenda's, pre meeting synopsis, complaints and incident data is posted to CCC members 1 week before the meeting.

8. MONITORING RESULTS

Environmental Review was presented by Craig Ypinazar Services Manager in the absence of Sharon Green, Bengalla's Environmental Specialist.

WATER

Kevin Lecky asked if Bengalla had discharged water in 2008. Craig explained Bengalla had one discharge in 2008 of 64 megalitres in September. Bengalla chose to take the opportunity to discharge in preparation for the predicted wet October, November and December.

Craig Flemming asked about the water use graph and why the significant increase in water use per tonne of coal after June 2008. Craig Ypinazar explained that the graph related to Fresh Water use onsite, not the overall water use therefore with less rainfall the mine rely's more on freshwater, the spike refers to more water taken from the Hunter River not a greater amount of overall water use.

COMPLAINTS

Karen Portolan asked if geographically complainants have altered over the years. Karen requested a geographical breakdown of blasting complaints comparing 2007 and 2008 complaints.

Craig Flemming enquired about the Bengalla Environmental Hotline and the process. Craig Ypinazar confirmed that the Environmental Hotline is outsourced and takes calls for all Coal & Allied sites in the Hunter Valley. He went onto explain that a complainant speaks with a call centre consultant which results in a pager being sent to the Open Cut Examiner (OCE) and the Environment team 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Either the OCE or a member of the environment team will then contact the complainant and respond to their enquiry.

Col Bates commented he has called the Bengalla Environmental Hotline number in the past and it works well, his complaint and details were taken and someone has always returned his call within half an hour.

Andrea Sutton emphasized to the committee that the Environmental Hotline number was one of Bengalla's first points of call for feedback and asked if anyone receives negative information about the hotline please feed this back to us via reception or Kylie Argent.

BLASTING

In reference to the increase in blasting complaints Karen Portolan enquired if there were any operational aspects around the reason for blasting complaints.

Andrea replied she was not aware of any operational changes that would have significantly changed Bengalla's blasting profile. Blast results show that Bengalla are continuing to see similar vibration results as we have in the past.

Col Bates made the comment that Bengalla is loading a lot more explosives into the shots. Andrea replied this was not her understanding and Bengalla are not seeing different results in vibration or sound pressure. Andrea offered to have a staff member from technical services attend the next meeting to give an explanation of blasting; procedures and techniques and answer questions. Andrea went on to explain that in the case of wet conditions different products maybe used.

Col Bates made comment that blasts used to be one explosion and now they seem extended.

Craig Flemming made reference to the pre meeting synopsis data relating to blasting times, he commented that some times were in 24 hour format and some in 12 hour format. Action item created to address this.

DUST

Karen Portolan asked about spikes on the depositional dust graphs. It was explained the spikes relate to events with significantly high wind. It was noted that since October 2007 the rolling average has decreased, this correlation relates to the end of the drought in 2007.

Col Bates asked if Bengalla felt there was need to put on an extra watercart. Andrea replied saying Bengalla own and operate 3 water carts, along with a small contract water cart. We aim to keep all of the water carts in operation during the hotter months and schedule major repair works in the cooler months.

Col Bates questioned if all of Bengalla's OCE's were aware of the regulations and criteria which Bengalla are required to comply with. Craig Ypinazar replied he was confident that all OCE's were aware. Col said he had seen evidence of practices in the mine which did not comply with regulations, referring to examples of dumping in windy conditions.

Andrea replied explaining that Bengalla had recently implemented a tool to support the OCE's in their role. An alarm has been attached to the real time monitoring system which alerts the dispatch officer when hourly wind speed average exceed 5.6metres per second, the

dispatch officer then contacts the OCE. The OCE's role is to then monitor the situation and makes the appropriate changes to operations to limit dust.

Kylie went on to explain that she had received a call from Col on 22 January about dust and dumping on the top of the south waste dump. Kylie followed this up by discussing these concerns with the Production Superintendent and reinforcing the regulations and criteria with all of the production staff. The Production Superintendent confirmed on Tuesday 27 January that he had given a toolbox talk to production staff to be aware of the current exposures relating to dust and the need to be proactive, along with displaying a slide on the muster screens regarding dust.

NOISE

Col asked about noise effects when the new ROM hopper is commissioned and if any noise modeling had occurred. Craig Ypinazar replied that when compiling the Statement of Environmental Effects Modification to Mining Operations February 2006, noise modeling took place and it identified that the operation of the new ROM hopper would not exceed the noise criteria set in the Development Consent. The location of the new ROM hopper is behind a visual and noise bund along with the hopper also being located in a deep hole surrounded by concrete. The hopper is also enclosed to limit excess noise when dumping loads. The new hopper design took into consideration aspects to minimise noise exposure. Monitoring of noise conditions once the hopper has been commissioned will occur to ensure noise is managed appropriately.

ENERGY

Col Bates questions if Bengalla calculate how much diesel is used per tonne of coal produced. Andrea explained that Bengalla calculate the amount of energy used per tonne of coal, not the amount of diesel. The dragline moves a large quantity of material and this is powered by electricity not deisel. Therefore to gain a better understanding of the operations energy consumption all energy use is calculated back to a carbon dioxide equivalent. All Coal & Allied sites have set energy use targets and report monthly on if these targets have been achieved.

9. COMMUNITY REPORT

Kylie Argent presented the slides outlining Bengalla's community involvement between November 2008 and February 2009. See slide presentation attached for details.

Col Bates enquired to Bengalla and Mt Pleasant conducting the Site Managed Assessment together. Kylie explained that the process of the audit consisted of each site (Bengalla and Mt Pleasant) conducting a separate audit for site specific processes. The overall community assessment was a collaborative assessment because Bengalla and Mt Pleasant have one community, primarily Muswellbrook.

The Community Support Team once again funded a number of local community groups which are outlined in the slide presentation attached.

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

Col Bates made a comment that he saw a contractor who was commissioned by Bengalla in December to do some slashing of grass. Col stated the work was being done on a 40 degree day in dry tinder grass along the Bengalla boundary fence on Wybong road. Col said he spoke with the contractor and expressed his concern of starting a fire. Shortly after this conversation the contractor stopped the job. Col was very concerned that Bengalla had arranged this work without thinking of the consequences, if the slasher had of hit a rock a spark could have easily started a fire. He recommended that slashing should occur in the cooler month leading up to summer as a preventative not during summer when it has the potential to start a fire. If commissioning slashing in the summer the conditions should be managed, work to be conducted early morning when there is still dew on the grass. It was noted this was a valid point and further enquiries into this incident will be made.

11. CCC NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

- Blasting (techniques, manage criteria, limitations)
- Art Prize
- Bengalla Link Road

12. 2009 MEETING DATES

Wednesday 27th May

Wednesday 26th August

Wednesday 25th November

Attachments:

- Meeting Presentation Slides

ACTION LIST

Meeting No. 85– Wednesday 25th February 2009

ITEM NO.	ITEM	ACTIONED BY
1.	Invite a staff member from technical services to present at the next CCC meeting about Bengalla's blasting procedures and techniques	Kylie Argent
2.	Plot the geographical location of blasting complaints from 2007 & 2008 to compare if complaints are coming from the same area or if they are coming from other areas	Environment
3.	Follow up why blasting data has a mixture of 12 hour and 24 hour time format. Ensure future data has consistent time format of 24 hour times.	Kylie Argent
4.	Pass on information to K Portolan about the Bursting With Energy Expo	Kylie Argent
5.	Send correspondence to the Director General notifying him of the CCC members and chair person changes, ensure a copy is sent to K Portolan for her files.	Kylie Argent
6.	Ensure person accountable for arranging slashing understands the risks of slashing in hot weather and that it won't be repeated	Kylie Argent