

7. REPORTS

Presentation given by Pam Simpson regarding previous quarter environmental performance (May- July). 14 enquiries were received. Of these one was not considered a complaint and 3 were non- Drayton related. Ten were received after one blast event. These were discussed as required by members of the CCC. PS explained any enquiries from DECCW and DoP are anonymous and dealing with them has to be made in a general way.

Blast event- Alan Richards was brought in to investigate due to feedback received (including complaints from the middle of Muswellbrook, not only close neighbours). Blast caused no exceedances in vibration or overpressure. Results discovered that the weather conditions on the day created a focusing point with majority of airblast travelling in one direction only. This, mixed with the cloud cover and atmospheric conditions that caused a “reinforcing wave” that made the sound bounce. This is why the complaints were all isolated locationally.

JL queried the new procedure that is used in the NN area due to reactive ground. This includes blasting having to occur within 24 hours of stemming and loading. JL questioned about blast events similar to 29/10/10 becoming regular due to no choice in firing. PS replied that new software is being used that gives accurate 24 hour advance predictions that updates every ten minutes. JL asked if pit will get closer to Antiene residents. PS replied that maybe 100m closer. Rail spur is in the way and is causing strips to become misshaped.

GDB stated that blasts from Drayton are causing cracks in swimming pool. New cracks appeared recently after 29/10/10 blast. GDB included that figures of compliance that mines use mean nothing to him and he is worried about physical reactions and reduction in standard of living. PS offered to get Terrock to survey the pool and investigate. GDB said this has been done previously where results concluded that clay soils are the cause. GDB had private assessment that contradicted. CG asked why consent authorities had not been consulted and reports submitted to them if unhappy with contradicting results. GDB agreed to allow Terrock to reinvestigate the swimming pool.

Action: GDB's swimming pool to be surveyed (with GDB being present)

Who: PS to contact Terrock

When: before the end of the year.

Rainfall data for the year to date was compared to last year's rainfall pattern and historic averages. Above average rainfall fell in this quarter; October 2010 having above average rainfall. November is already above average.

Water discharge enquiry from Robert Halloran. First discharge event in ~15- 20 years. PS outlined cause of events; evaporation sprays left on too long causing saturation of the dam wall and water seepage down the creek. Self reported to DECCW. Discharge filled multiple dams of Pamger drive residents with mine water. Halloran did not complain; just asked if water is suitable for cows to drink. CCC asked if water was contaminated. PS replied that lab results concluded EC ~3000µS/cm and pH ~ 7, but it was pit water and not background. RB asked if dam safety committee were notified. PS- Yes. RB asked about conclusion and response from DSC. PS replied that Drayton is still awaiting results.

One blast above 115 dBL (allowed 5% of time). CG asked how 116 dBL blast compared to 29/10/10. PS- no complaints. RB asked if meteorological conditions are taken into account for blasts. PS- yes. Blasting in NN area is in afternoon due to inversions generally has dissipated by around midday. CG- why is the system so high if complaints are received at 2mm/sec in general. Idea brought up of bringing up to compliance team in Singleton.

PM₁₀ and dust levels in the Antiene area were below EPA goals both daily and annually. Results show an increasing trend for both but this is due to seasonal variations.

Noise levels show September was above limits in the day and evening. GDB complained about noise levels (largely train idling) and Drayton noise monitoring, it was mentioned that monitoring is “always undertaken when it’s quiet”. PS explained that independent noise monitoring is required to be conducted every 6 months, with the company choosing the day and time. PS justified further that Drayton also undertake monthly independent monitoring that is any time of day and night and is not related to Drayton operations and weekly Drayton monitoring (undertaken by KS). PS and CG clarified that if there are any problems to contact Drayton and the BarnOwl can be used to identify and monitor the noises. GDB commented that BarnOwl won’t hear what he is hearing. PS replied that BarnOwl is ~ 200m off TMD and therefore is likely to pick up the noises because it is closer to the mine. CG spoke to GDB that if he’s still unhappy, these complaints now need to go to the compliance team because Drayton has been notified with the issues.

Water levels have decreased in October compared to September. Included in this presentation is a summary of Drayton’s water usage for the quarterly period. Drayton does not extract water from the Hunter River, nor does it discharge water offsite. Drayton is a nil discharge site. RB asked about discharge points if one did occur. PS answered Ramrod Creek, Saddler’s Creek or Liddell Ash Dam.

Waste disposal data was also presented for current year to date.

8. SITE UPDATE

Mine is progressing according to plans, target output of 5Mt a year should be reached this year. Currently only one of 2 Anglo mines on target. Currently generating MOP for 2012 – 2017. This will be the initial mine closure plan. PS explained that mine closure plan has to be amended and resubmitted two years before mine closure. Rehab is behind schedule. PS explained Drayton South project and the progression of the project; almost at EIS stage. RB asked if mine closure plans are open to the public. PS – no, MOP will include community input though. This will be based upon public forum that was held last year. RB commented that local councils need to be getting involved and taking into account mine closures as much as mine openings due to generation of closing mines advancing. PS replied that Anglo rules are very stringent. It was explained that Drayton uses pasture land for rehab rather than native woodland so that the area will be able to be used in future.

9. SUBMISSIONS

Nil

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

REGULATORY AUDIT

PS summarised the circumstances of the regulatory audit undertaken in October by the DECCW, I&I and DoP. PS explained that the audit was based solely upon air quality & dust management. The auditors undertook both desk and field studies whilst incorporating all departments of the mine into it. PS concluded that results have only just been received and that next CCC will include a brief mention of the findings.

Action: Include brief section of audit results in next meeting.
Who: Pam Simpson

When: Next CCC (February)

KANGAROOS

Drayton neighbours asked PH to bring up the problem of kangaroos on land in the CCC. The neighbours believe that Drayton is the cause for large numbers of kangaroos being seen on their property due to mine decreasing land available for them to graze on so moving elsewhere. Numbers mentioned were that 100 in one mob had been seen. PS explained that Drayton undertakes regular culling events in order to keep numbers down. KS agreed and stated that there have been 2 culls within past 6 months. PS further commented that the culls include a commercial licence that means the meat is taken for human consumption and therefore not creating waste.

PH commented that only a maximum of ~ 20 kangaroos have been seen in a single mob at his residence that shares a border with the neighbour in topic. GDB agreed that PH's estimate is similar to what has been seen at his property.

DUST ISSUES

PH had been asked by Drayton neighbours to bring up the worry of high dust levels in their water tank. Resident involved just wants to have clean tank water. PS commented that this is not a problem and that neighbour in question only has to contact Drayton.

PH mentioned that MAC has recently installed a first flush pump to the house in order to try and reduce dust levels in the tank. Possibility of Drayton installing a second on the other side of the house if not already installed. Issue is intensified due to abundance of trees surrounding property and leaning over house; filling gutters. Survey has been undertaken previously about removing some of the closer trees; however it was found that this is not possible due to the size and location without damaging the property. Possibility of a new larger tank for the neighbour was brought up by PS. The problem is that neighbour never answers the phone when Drayton ring (which is generally on a weekly basis currently due to blasting in the NN area).

Action: PS to contact Robertson's and/ or other way round in order to rectify this issue.
Who: Pam Simpson/ Robertson's
When: ASAP

STOCKPILE DUST

PH wanted to hear about the follow-up to previous enquiry regarding stockpile sprays and the forthcoming audit that was mentioned during previous CCC. KS explained results included ½ - 2/3's of the sprays were found to be working during the audit. The main problem was due to sprays being unable to oscillate. PS mentioned that the audit will be repeated because CHP plant has had the results and fixed up problems that arose from the findings.

Action: Stockpile Audit
Who: Katy Shaw
When: ASAP

11. DEBRIEF THIS MEETING

PS showed and explained to CCC members BarnOwl audio files and BarnOwl program.

12. NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: 17th February 2011

Meeting concluded that CCC dates would remain on the third Wednesday of the quarterly months.

The meeting closed at 7:00 pm.

Meeting Dates

The following dates are proposed for 2011

17th of February 2011 (Joint CCC to be held at Mt Arthur Coal)

19th of May 2011

18th of August 2011 (Joint CCC to be held at Drayton)

17th of November 2011