

ABEL UNDERGROUND COAL MINE

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
Meeting #6**

Monday 30th March, 2009 at 5.00pm

Abel Underground Mine Administration Building

MINUTES

1. **OPENING & WELCOME:** Chairman, The Hon. Milton Morris AO
2. **PRESENT:** Mr Milton Morris (Chairman), Mr Alan Brown, Mr Allan Jennings, Mr Brad Ure, Mr Terry Lewin, Mr Lachlan Crawford (Bloomfield), Mr Alick Osborne, Mr Mark McPherson, Mr Stephen Thornton, Mr Tony Sutherland, Mr Adam Heeney and Mr Phillip Brown (mins).
3. **APOLOGIES:** Mr Matthew Blackham and Mr Andrew Pace.
4. **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**
 - 4.1 *Previous Minutes 15th December, 2008 were confirmed by those members present with the inclusion of the email from Mr B Ure dated*
5. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:**
 - 5.1 *Business Arising.*
6. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Nil
7. **COMPANY REPORTS AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES:**
 - 7.1 **Development update**
 - 7.1.1 **Abel Program 2008**

Mr Stephen Thornton (General Manager, Underground Operations) provided an update on the mine's progress including:

 - Looking at Pillar Extraction commencing at the end of the year.
 - Forecast is for production of 675,000 t for the year
 - Workforce of approximately 165 people by December 2009
 - Half way installing the stacker conveyor system.
 - Still using eight (8) generators to supply electricity
 - A fourth roadway will be constructed beneath John Renshaw Drive
 - By the end of 2010 there will be two or three relatively large fans when the open cut is finished.

Mr T Lewin commented that the open cut operations appears to be more visible through the creek gully.

Mr P Brown advised that the current mound will be planted with grasses to improve the area. Mr P Brown also advised that an earthen mound has been built in front of the Abel substation to shield the area from John Renshaw Drive.

Mr A Brown commented that there has been an increase in noise coming from the site. He advised that he is unable to differentiate which part of the site that the noise is coming from. Mr P Brown advised that the Open Cut operation is now only working on a day and afternoon shift finishing at 12.30am.

Mr M McPherson advised that the previous mining contractor, Cook's Construction, had gone into voluntary administration before Christmas and Donaldson Coal had taken over the operations.

Revision History					
Edition	Revision	Comment	Author	Date	Authorised by:
1	0	Draft Minutes	P Brown	27 April 2009	
2		Adopted	P Brown	29 June 2009	Mr Milton Morris

Mr S Thornton advised that as Donaldson Open Cut winds down and production at Abel Mine increases then there will be a need to haul coal on nightshift from the Abel Mine.

7.2 **Monitoring and Environmental Performance**

Mr P Brown tabled the recent air, noise and water monitoring results as follows:

Noise:

Donaldson Mine operations were observed to be inaudible during all survey periods at all locations except at Location K (Catholic Diocese) during the daytime, evening and night-time. However, Donaldson Mine contributions were found to be within the relevant consent conditions at all assessed locations.

Abel Project operations were inaudible at all residential locations during all periods and as such contributed noise levels from Abel Project did not exceed noise emission goals (including the sleep arousal criteria) and were in compliance with the Abel Project *Approval*.

Air:

January

On the days that the instruments were monitoring, the highest 24-hour average PM10 concentration in January 2009 was 65 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, measured on the 6th at the Beresfield site. On this occasion the measured PM10 concentration exceeded the 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ 24-hour NEPM goal. The cause of this event has not been determined and will be investigated. The measured concentration of TSP and PM10 at Blackhill are also relatively high on that day. TSP measurements from the Blackhill site show that concentrations were below the NHMRC 90 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ annual average TSP goal. It should be noted that the NHMRC goal refers to an annual average and not a 24-hour average as measured by the high volume air sampler. The annual average TSP concentration for the 12 months to January 2009 was 31 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

The annual average PM10 concentrations for Beresfield and Blackhill were 24 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and 15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ respectively for the 12 months to January

February

On the days that the instruments were monitoring, the highest 24-hour average PM10 concentration in February 2009 was 38 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, measured on the 17th at the Beresfield site. On this occasion the measured PM10 concentration did not exceed the 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ 24-hour NEPM goal. TSP measurements from the Blackhill site show that concentrations were below the NHMRC 90 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ annual average TSP goal. It should be noted that the NHMRC goal refers to an annual average and not a 24-hour average as measured by the high volume air sampler. The annual average TSP concentration for the 12 months to February 2009 was 32 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

The annual average PM10 concentrations for Beresfield and Blackhill were 25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and 16 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ respectively for the 12 months to February 2009. These are below the DECC's annual average PM10 air quality criterion of 30 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

Water

Four Mile Creek Upstream	Electrical Conductivity (EC) 350 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$	pH 6.8
Four Mile Creek Downstream	EC 260 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$	pH 7.4
Weakley's Flat Creek Upstream	EC 570 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$	pH 7.1
Weakley's Flat Creek Downstream	EC 670 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$	pH 6.6

7.3 **Community Complaints and response to complaints**

Mr P Brown advised that there had been no community complaints relating to Abel.

7.4 **Information provided to the Community and any feedback**

7.4.1 Website Information

Mr P Brown advised that the website has been updated. Mr A Brown advised that the website was not up-to-date as it still had the first draft minutes displayed. Mr A Brown again emphasised the need to have the minutes updated on the website in accordance with the Department of Planning's guidelines. Mr P Brown said that this would be attended to.

7.5 **Subsidence Management Plan Update**

Mr T Sutherland discussed the process of the preparing and submitting the Subsidence Management Plans including:

- Revisit subsidence predictions from the original model

- Advertisement in the local papers
- Meeting with Community Consultative Committee, and various stakeholders
- Aiming for pillar extraction to commence in November 2009

Mr T Sutherland tabled an example of a draft land management plan. Mr Sutherland also tabled a document showing actions and timings for the preparation of the subsidence management plans.

Mr B Ure asked about the timing of the mining. Mr S Thornton advised that the Company is required to mine the area highlighted on the plan in the first five years. Mr Ure asked if the discussions would only be with affected land holders at first. Mr Thornton confirmed that this would be done.

Mr A Jennings asked when the Company would start talking with the other land holders. Mr McPherson advised that the Company would like to get ahead of the process as much as they could.

Mr Lewin asked how many individual Land Management Plans would there be? Mr McPherson advised 215 individual land holdings.

Mr S Thornton advised that the Mining Operations Plan (MOP) and the Subsidence Management Plans (SMPs) are for seven years each.

Mr Lewin asked if there was opportunity for the company to learn how the mining was going in particular subsidence and to apply this to future mining.

Mr McPherson said that the company would be reviewing the mining being undertaken to monitor the subsidence.

Mr A Brown asked if the company would be providing an SMP for first workings. Mr McPherson advised that the company wouldn't be.

Mr A Brown commented that if the first workings lead to subsidence then a plan is required. Mr S Thornton advised that if subsidence was caused of special features such as roads then an SMP would be prepared for it.

Mr A Brown also commented that it would be good to monitor the first working under John Renshaw Drive to see if they can learn anything from the workings.

7.6 Individual Land Management Plans

Mr Lewin asked if the Land Management Plans would be for individual properties and would they be discussed on a one to one basis with the owner? Mr McPherson said that they would be discussed this way.

Mr Lewin asked if they could get a copy of an example to show the Blackhill Residents.

Mr McPherson said that they would.

Mr Jennings asked if the Committee could have a copy of a draft Land Management Plan to show the residents in the area. The draft example was tabled at the meeting and will be included with the minutes.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS:

- 8.1 Mr A Brown said that he is still concerned with procedural practices and that not following them is placing pressure on the Committee. The Chairman advised that when the minutes are adopted that they will be signed and dated by him. There will be a document management system applied to the minutes so that they draft copies can be managed.

- 8.2 Mr Lewin asked if people who live outside the mine footprint area are able to apply for funding. Mr McPherson explained that the funding was for projects within the footprint area. Mr Lewin asked if the link to the application form on the website could be improved as people were finding it a bit hard locate. Mr McPherson said that they will look at the website application forms.
- 8.3 Mr A Brown sought clarification on the funding and design of the intersection of John Renshaw Drive and Blackhill Road. Mr McPherson advised that the company have advised the RTA that it will contribute toward the intersection as long as the work is commenced by June 2009. Mr McPherson advised that he will organise a meeting with the RTA Representative, Terry Lewin and Alan Brown to discuss the intersection design.
- 8.4 Mr P Brown tabled an email from Andrew Pace. Refer to attachments.

9. NEXT MEETING

- 9.1 The next meeting of the Abel Community Consultative Committee was set down for Monday 29th June 2009 to be held at the Abel Underground Mine Administration Building at 5.00 pm.

MEETING CLOSED: The meeting closed at 6.00 pm.