

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BICKHAM COAL BULK SAMPLE

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (BCCC)

**MEETING NUMBER 3 - WEDNESDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER 2004 HELD AT UPPER HUNTER
SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT 4.15PM**

PRESENT:	WARREN COOK	Chairperson
	NAT DOONAN	Community Representative
	MICHAEL SATARA	Community Representative
	NEVILLE MOXON	Community Representative
	GREG SUMMERHAYES	Dept. Primary Industry
	DARYL DUTTON	Upper Hunter Shire Council
	DAVID CASSON	Upper Hunter Shire Council
	JOHN RICHARDS	Bickham Coal Company
	JOHN HINDMARSH	Bickham Coal Company
	DAVID FOSTER	Bickham Coal Company
APOLOGIES:	JOCELYN ROBERTS	Community Representative
	LLOYD ROSSINGTON	Community Representative

***Note:** Nat Doonan was excused from the meeting at 5:35pm
David Casson was excused from the meeting at 5:40pm

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING.

- Confirmed that all committee members received a copy of minutes from previous meeting.
- The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the second meeting.

BUSINESS MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES.

- None

**1. REPORT ON THE DATA MONITORING. – J.HINDMARSH - ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER
(BCC)**

- Committee viewed a slide presentation and full report of the monitoring methods used by Bickham Coal Company to assess vibration, overpressure, air quality and water levels and quality (ground and surface) during the Bulk Sample period.
- Various photos and maps were viewed to identify where these monitors/indicators are positioned onsite and how they operate.

- Various diagrams and figures were used to illustrate the data presented and how it related to what was referenced in the REF.
- It was noted that overall air and water quality had not changed since the commencement of the Bulk Sampling operations. Vibration and noise had also been carefully monitored with no negative impact noted.
- A report of all measurements and results obtained to date was distributed to all committee members.
- A copy will also be referred to DIPNR for their records.

2. FLOWCHART FOR THE APPROVAL PROCESS – G.SUMMERHAYES (DPI)

- The Committee viewed a flowchart outlining the process for approval of new mines. It was explained that the process can be quite lengthy. It was noted that BCC are at the stage of preparing a conceptual mine plan.
- The Committee was advised that there would be a number of different agencies involved in this process – the Dept of Primary Industry, Dept of Environment and Conservation and the Dept of Infrastructure and Natural Resources.

3. REPORT FROM BCC OF APPROVAL PROCESS TO DATE

- BCC reported that they had undertaken only the first steps in the approval process outlined by Greg Summerhayes. They had begun work on the preparation of Conceptual Mine Plans with a view to being able to present these to the DPI at some future time. At the same time, some baseline data was being collected.

4. GENERAL BUSINESS

- A number of questions were raised relating to where BCC were positioned in the approval process. It was noted that BCC hope to have the EIS completed by the middle of next year (2005).
- The new intersection at the New England Highway has been approved by the RTA and is being constructed by UHC. Completion is anticipated by the end of September 2004.
- BCC said that they are extracting the first load of coal from the Bulk Sample. This will be crushed, transported by road to Rix's Creek and then taken to Newcastle by rail. From there the coal will be shipped to Japanese customers who will provide feedback on the boiler behaviour of the bulk sample of coal.
- It was suggested that BCC prepare a newsletter to answer any questions or queries that the public may have in relation to the preparation of the EIS. BCC said that they would certainly consider this.

- It was noted that the council would inform the committee about the number of "hits" that the BCCC minutes had received on the council website. These will be supplied at next month's meeting.
- Questions regarding the quality of the coal that had been extracted to date from the site were raised. BCC confirmed that it looked quite good.

MISCELLANEOUS.

- It was decided that the next meeting would be held in approximately one month's time on site to enable the committee to carry out a visual inspection of the site and the work that has been completed to date.
- The meeting date was confirmed as Wednesday 27th October 2004. The Committee will meet at the Homestead at 3pm for a site inspection. The meeting will be held at 4pm.

MEETING CONCLUDED AT 5:50PM.

* Add that piezometer 70A, 70B + 70C water levels and the
river levels was discussed.
(Michael Sabana).