

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BICKHAM COAL BULK SAMPLE

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (BCCC)

**MEETING NUMBER 4 - WEDNESDAY 28th OCTOBER 2004 HELD ON-SITE AT
SOUTH BICKHAM HOMESTEAD AT 4.25PM**

PRESENT:	WARREN COOK	Chairperson
	NAT DOONAN	Community Representative
	MICHAEL SATARA	Community Representative
	NEVILLE MOXON	Community Representative
	GREG SUMMERHAYES	Dept. Primary Industry
	JOHN JOBLING	Upper Hunter Shire Council
	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

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:

- Confirmed that all committee members received a copy of the minutes from the previous meeting.
- The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the third meeting.
- It was noted that at the last meeting there was particular discussion on the northern piezometers.

BUSINESS MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

- None

1. UPDATED REPORT ON THE MONITORING DATA – J.HINDMARSH – ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER (BCC):

- John Hindmarsh distributed an updated environmental monitoring report to committee members and discussed the results together with providing detail on the variety of monitoring methods used. The results are in line with the predictions made in the REF.
- It was reported that there were no major changes to water quality or de-watering bores. Piezometers 70 A, B and C showed some variation, indicating some possible connection to the de-watering bores.
- The possibility of the connection between the dewatering bores and the river was raised. It was explained that changes in a piezometer's water level did not reflect changes in the Pages River.
- It was requested that BCC make preliminary enquiries with DIPNR about the feasibility of undertaking isotope testing of the river to examine any connectivity between the water bores and the Pages River.

2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT:

- None

3. ISSUE OF COMPLAINT MATTERS:

- A complaint was lodged with Dept. Primary Industry regarding the hauling of coal from the Bulk Sample via an unsealed intersection. BCC said that it not in breach of any of its consent conditions and was operating with the knowledge of the RTA and Upper Hunter Shire Council who had taken into consideration the fact that the intersection had a reduced speed limit of 40 km/hr during the construction process.
- It was pointed out that future matters of this nature should be referred to DPI and the RTA.
- This complaint matter was dealt with via the correct protocols.
- BCC said that in response to this complaint they had ceased the coal transport until after sealing was completed two days later.

4. GENERAL BUSINESS ARISING FROM SITE INSPECTION:

- The issue of Spontaneous Combustion of the stockpile was raised as an issue of concern by a number of committee members.
- BCC said that the type of coal being extracted for the Bulk Sample had a propensity to self heat if it was not handled and stored correctly. BCC also said that they were seeking advice from industry experts to undertake a full investigation of the problem.
- BCC stated they would look at all contributing factors and that they were confident that this problem, which was not unusual in the industry, could be managed in the future using a number of well established techniques.
- The status of the Upper Hunter Resource Assessment study was raised. It was estimated that this report would be released by the end of November.
- The committee was informed that the EPA had recently carried out a site inspection and was satisfied with all compliance issues.
- BCC said it would endeavour to get more vegetative material on the Flint Clay Void to allow for rehabilitation to be carried out promptly and were considering the use of bio solids to assist in this process.
- BCC said that the Bulk Sample would be completed within the estimated six month timeframe.
- As the E seam (which makes up most the 25,000 tonnes of coal) had been fully tested and found to have very similar characteristics to the main G seam, it has been decided to only remove small quantities of F and G seams with the G seam being extracted from core drilled from the base of the Bulk Sample pit.

5. GENERAL BUSINESS ARISING FROM MEETING:

- The committee received formal notification of resignation by Jocelyn Roberts who cited personal reasons for her decision. The Chairperson noted that Jocelyn had passed on her best wishes for the future of the committee and its work.
- BCC in conjunction with the Chairperson would send out relevant correspondence to Jocelyn to thank her for her involvement in the committee and to pass on the best wishes of all committee members.
- It was decided that another committee member would not be appointed to fill this position. The guidelines only called for four community members and a fifth was therefore not considered necessary at this late stage of the project.
- The issue of a community newsletter was again discussed. John Richards said that it was in the pipeline and would possibly be available by next week.
- The Chairperson said that he would give Lloyd Rossington a full update on the BCCC proceedings to date.

6. MISCELLANEOUS:

- The minutes from the last meeting had been tabled on the Upper Hunter Shire Council website.
- The next BCCC meeting would be held on Wednesday 1st December 2004 at the Upper Hunter Shire Council chambers at 4:15pm.

MEETING CONCLUDED AT 5:25PM