

Western Region Community Reference Group

Mt Piper Power Station

Notes from the meeting held Wednesday 17 February 2010

Attendees: Jim Whitty, Alex Preema, Max de Haan, Steve Saladine, Barbara Milne, Margaret Miller, Julie Favell

Transgrid guests:

Apologies: Faye Vandermeier (who has now resigned), Ron Bidwell, Boris Hunt, Warwick Peckham, Sue Graves

Welcome and introductions

Steve Saladine introduced a team from Transgrid who had been invited to present to the meeting as they are proposing to upgrade high voltage networks and switchyards at Wallerawang Power Station and surrounding areas.

Steve Jones outlined the proposed works to the meeting noting that they were modernising the power system to bring it into line with the standard of other bulk supply points. In preparation for a community consultative phase (which is part of the approval process), a number of community group members identified potential issues for consideration including: the need for noise mitigation, the impact of large load deliveries on local roads, concern about EMF, re-vegetation and the need for a traffic management plan to manage impacts of vehicle movements including road safety and local schools.

The first phase is planned for early 2010 to mid 2013 while the second will begin in 2013 to later that year.

Action Items

On completion of the Transgrid presentation, the planned agenda for the meeting was resumed. Notes from the previous meeting were approved.

Rail Unloader Project update – the proposal for the development of the Cobbora coal resource near Dunedoo was raised and it was noted that the potential to transport coal to the Western region from other suppliers provides an important option for maintaining affordable coal supplies.

Operations Update

It was noted that Mt Piper was running reliably. Wallerawang had two units out over the Christmas during a period of low demand with one unit returning to service in early January. The second unit is on standby and a major outage is planned for winter.

Water Use and Management

An update on Oberon Dam water management was provided. It was noted that Delta was on 32% of its allocation from the Fish River scheme and that after rain Oberon Dam had returned to 10.26% of capacity. Both Western Power Stations were designed to use Fish River water. Coxs River water has higher salinity levels due to the long period of drought as no water had flushed through the system, however with recent rain, Lake Wallace was flushed out. A desalination plant producing 6 ML per

day is being considered for installation at Wallerawang to reduce dependence on Oberon Dam water.

The RO plant will treat the blow down water which will no longer be discharged into Coxs River.

Mt Piper Ash Placement proposal

A short presentation was made to outline Delta's proposal for new ash placement areas.

Julie Flavelle noted that Blackman's Flat residents consider that the two areas are too close to the township of Blackman's Flat. It was also noted that if Mt Piper doubles in size, and coal is the preferred fuel, that ash volumes would also double in size.

There was interest expressed in gaining a better understanding of the make-up of Mt Piper ash and there was a request for a presentation to be made at a future meeting.

Member's feedback

Alex Preema, Acclimatisation Society – raised the issue of the potential for nuclear power to be the way for future energy generation

Julie Favell, Blackman's Flat

- a) expressed concern about salinity in Nuebeck's Creek. It was observed by Steve Saladine that this could be the result of draining due to longwall mining and spillage from mines and that Delta is not discharging into this water course.
- b) on behalf of Lithgow Environment Group Julie noted they would prefer Mt Piper extension to be gas fuelled and to be air cooled.
- c) that jobs for young people in the area are an issue. Steve noted that he is a member of the Lithgow Business Advisory Committee and that they had recently had a presentation from the University of Western Sydney about the potential for a campus of the University to be established in the Lithgow region.

Next meeting – 26 May 2010 at Mt Piper
