

Meeting Record

Name	Mt Piper & Wallerawang power stations	Meeting Date	25 February 2015
Meeting / Subject	Community Reference Group	Recorded By	MB
	Meeting 31	Total Pages	3

Members:	Jim Whitty, Julie Favell, Helen Riley, Rob Baigent	
EnergyAustralia	Luke Welfare	General Manager EnergyAustralia NSW;
	Michelle Blackley	Commercial Manager NSW
	Sarah Stent	Manager Corporate Affairs
	Sarah Neville	Communications Advisor
	Peter Griffiths	Environment Manager EnergyAustralia NSW
Apologies	Boris Hunt, Sue Graves, Ron Bidwell, Jamie Giokaris, Alex Preema	
Minute Taker	Michelle Blackley	Commercial Manager.

Meeting

Business Arising:

No General Business was carried over from the meeting of 26 November 2014. A session of the Visitor Induction was run for the committee attendees. Those who did not attend at this meeting will be inducted during upcoming meetings.

Peter Griffiths was introduced as the Environment Manager. This is the first meeting he has attended since he was appointed into this position.

Operational Update

Mt Piper - Unit 1 had a tube leak experienced. The mechanics of the tube leak was explained. Unit 2 is in service and operating reliably. Outage planning will begin for Unit 2 outage programmed for later in 2015. A major outage will be conducted in 2016.

Wallerawang – DDR project plan has been developed which is a common sense document to how to dismantle a power station. This plan is to be approved by NSW Government – Treasury. The deregistering of Unit 8 is underway.

The tender for the sale of high value equipment, plant and furnishings is currently being evaluated. Items such as turbine valves, switchboards, control panels, ash silos and boiler valves will be covered in this tender.

There will be a development application put out for public comment this year for Unit 7 cooling tower to be dismantled. This process will take some time to be approved. The community may notice some equipment leaving site in the coming months.

A further question regarding how far will the dismantling project go? Committee advised that the building will be deconstructed to ground level. The Chimney is listed as a heritage item, what will happen with that? This is part of the development application process. Committee was advised that the more modern stacks relating to Unit 7 and 8 would be removed bit by bit due to their proximity to the Cops River.

Cooling Tower could recycle some materials. Station building will be under controlled removal methods due to the proximity of Cops River and the Western rail line. Boiler will be removed first and then crush all concrete, cable tunnels removed. All this will be completed with consideration of the appropriate asbestos removal requirements. It is believed that as the site buildings have been largely untouched that asbestos removal will be an ongoing issue for the project and all due care will be applied.

Community will also see requests for community input into Development Applications through the Lithgow City Council for some areas of the site. The warehouse will probably remain as it can be repurposed.

Committee asked if land will be sold. Committee was advised that some land will be sold where there is an appropriate market and legacy issues do not exist. For example some of the buffer zone areas which have not undergone much development could be sold. The power station site inside the inner perimeter will not be sold. The Ash Dam areas will undergo rehabilitation and the State Government would retain ownership.

Meeting Record

Maintenance and Shift personnel are continuing to provide support to the DDR Project team with some dismantling and maintenance works.

■ Market Recap

The rolling average demand trend was discussed and there is an indication that the demand decrease may be levelling off somewhat. EnergyAustralia's projections for the next five years indicate a continued drop in base load generation as manufacturing plants shut down in some regions, more solar panel usage continues and domestic energy storage products and facilities begin to come onto the market.

Further impact could be realised in the future as the Federal Government RECs scheme changes impact the market.

The committee members expressed their understanding of the news stories relating energy cost increases of up to \$600 per annum for some households.

An explanation of the price per megawatt was explained with the breakup of all costs illustrated.

■ Site Safety

Site Safety figures indicating year to date figures up to the 20 February 2014 were displayed and the 41 days of zero harm for all staff, contractors and visitors was noted.

■ Rail Unloader

There has been no change with the status of the rail unloader site with environmental monitoring and the agreement lease continuing. EnergyAustralia are continuing to assess all the coal transport options which may become available to the business. Preliminary discussions regarding our coal strategy but we cannot progress this much further until we know the results of Centennial's development application for extension of their existing mines in the region. The development application process is long and tortuous and there are no certainties around any of their projects obtaining approval.

1. Water Management

Oberon Dam is down again from last report to 60.07%. This dam is not in a good catchment area. EnergyAustralia NSW's total active storage has increased to 95.7%. There is an amber alert for Lake Wallace and Lake Lyell with a red alert on the Coxs River between these two lakes.

The red alert for the Coxs River is under the Lithgow City Council management. There is a flow of 20 ML from Lake Wallace down the Coxs River. This water quality may be affected by the Lithgow City Council's Wallerawang sewerage works. These works have been recently upgraded but there appears to be a problem relating to the nutrient level in the Lake which is supporting algal blooms.

Feral Goats are still of ongoing concern around Thompsons Creek Dam. It has been suggested to get the local property owners together to have a collective solution to this problem.

A picture of the new sign installed at Thompsons Creek Dam was displayed for the committee.

2. Sponsorship Plan

A different approach to the distribution of community funds was discussed with the committee and they were pleased to be involved in the evaluation of submissions for the Quarter 2 and Quarter 4 campaigns. It was understood that confidentiality relating to this submission was to be maintained.

The application rules and evaluation criteria would need some consideration.

3. General Business

NuRock bricks made from ash produced by the burning of coal for power generation could be sold to Masters and Bunnings hardware chains in the mid-term future. The committee was advised of the trial plant under construction and the potential to create a new business in the local area with a 50,000 brick production line. It was felt that NuRock could establish a base for others to follow.

The land has been sub-divided to allow NuRock to have there on development application process and Environment Protection License. The transfer of a waste product requires special license requirements but the environment benefits outweigh these risks. NuRock are also investigating if they can use our brine in their processes thus reducing our waste stream further.

This has the potential to create 10 to 15 jobs in the region and create a better rehabilitation outcome for both Wallerawang and Mt Piper.

Action: Michelle Blackley to get some sample products to show Committee members at the next meeting.

Meeting Record

Rob Baigent asked about the Coal Supply

Committee was advised that Centennial were working on development applications to extend their existing mines in the area. Issues related to hanging swamps and discharges were to be addressed.

Xtrata has Baal Bone Colliery on the market. Airlie is going now but has low quality coal. Pinedale are looking at alternatives with a Tranche of coal that may or may not be viable to mine.

Water quality issues from Centennial were discussed following the previous meeting. Centennial are yet to respond to the EPA about their proposed discharges.

Could the Reverse Osmosis plant at Wallerawang be used by Centennial to clean there discharge into Lake Wallace?

We believe the plant is not big enough to handle the full discharge volume and it would create a waste stream of brine that Centennial would need to be licensed to dispose.

We are concerned about the water quality across our water storage system from Lake Wallace into Lake Lyell and then Thompsons Creek Dam. This has the potential to limit our ability to generate and we believe Centennial should be held to the same standard as anyone else. Discussions between Centennial and EnergyAustralia are continuing on this issue.

The chemistry of water is a major issue for EnergyAustralia going forward.

Jim Whitty ask if Centennial could use the pipeline between Wallerawang and Mt Piper. Centennial may want to use the pipeline but they would need to come to a commercial arrangement with EnergyAustralia and continue to maintain the line in accordance with environment guidelines and cover the costs of chemicals and power.

Rob Baigent advised that he would be retiring from the Community Reference Group. He had discussed this with the Blue Mountains Conservation Society and it was felt that with Wallerawang closing the Society's issues had been dealt with. He has enjoyed his time with the Group but this would be his last meeting. The other members thanked him for his contribution and wished him all the best.

Meeting closed at 7.20 pm.

4. Next Meeting

Wednesday 10 June 2015 at 5 pm, Mt Piper Seminar Room.