

**Western Region Community Reference Group Meeting
Mt Piper Power Station
Notes from meeting held Wednesday 30 May 2012**

Attendees: Julie Favell; Rob Baigent; Alex Preema, Jim Whitty; Boris Hunt; Sue Graves; Greg Everett, CE Delta Electricity, Luke Welfare, Delta Electricity Manager, Western Region; Julia Harvey, Corporate Relations Manager.

Apologies: None recorded

1. Welcome

Greg Everett Chief Executive Delta Electricity attended the meeting. Luke welcomed attendees.

Notes from Previous Meeting – accepted.

2. Updates

Operations

An un-planned outage was experienced on Mt Piper Unit 1 to replace the Generator Transformer. The works went well and in record time. Mt Piper 2 suffered a lightning strike trip and was returned to service without further operational issues.

Western Rail Unloader

No change since last report. The agreement is continuing. TRU Energy is undertaking a feasibility study with Delta continuing to do environmental monitoring.

Water Management

The dams are currently close to full and environmental releases are continuing. Information on the dam levels is available on the Delta website and updated weekly. Mr Hunt was able to use his iPhone to look at the updated Website at the meeting.

The feasibility study for the Wallerawang water plant project has been completed. Delta has engaged an Owner's Engineer to manage the project in line with the Blue Mountains Conservation Society agreement.

Delta is in receipt of draft changes to Wallerawang's environment protection licence from EPA. We are reviewing the proposed amendments to water discharge conditions and will respond to the EPA by the nominated due date.

Delta is also currently upgrading the two brine concentrators and the first unit is nearing completion. This involves increasing the capacity of the plant to handle more salts in the water inflow.

Springvale Mine water – the licensed discharge point for excess water will be transferred to Centennial with the EPA's agreement. The members expressed the view that all individual groups and companies should be responsible for their own discharges.

Protection of the Environment Legislation Amendment

This new amendment requires those with an Environment Protection Licence to provide monitoring data on a monthly basis. Discussion took place on how monitoring took place and the timing of the monitoring and delivery of reports.

Energy Reforms

Delta's focus is on generating electricity reliably. The carbon tax will commence on 1 July. Legislation for the sale of the NSW Electricity Generators is currently being debated in the upper house. Discussion took place regarding the legislation and the likelihood that future owners will continue to support the local community through sponsorship and donations.

Thompsons Creek Dam Access

The gazettal of the prohibition for fishing on the dam wall has now taken place. Delta is waiting for the signed agreement. The new signage has been installed.

3. Presentations

Luke presented information relating to the western projects which are all on schedule. Site safety and the 12/13 outage plan were also discussed. Please refer to the presentation slides for more details.

4. General Business

- a) **Julie Favell** noted that Blackmans Flat residents had met with Centennial and Pinedale regarding the relocation of residents. They have also registered to meet with Minister Hartcher at the Community Cabinet meeting in Bathurst on 4 June 2012. The issue related to the cumulative impacts of industry on the village. Council will also be attending the June meeting. Mr Everett suggested that if residents wished to be bought out they should direct their enquiries to the companies which have the relevant mining leases.
- b) The question was also raised whether Delta can buy underground coal which reduces impact on residents near open cut mine sites. The members were advised that the majority of coal mined underground goes for sale overseas not to Australian buyers. It is a price issue.
- c) It was noted that Centennial has a current proposal before the Department of Planning but there was a query whether it was still on the website. Delta offered to review and advise Julie.
- d) **Jim Whitty** advised that a neighbour had mentioned to him that the water in Dump Creek appeared to have quality issues as his cattle would not drink it.
- e) Also raised was noise issue from the Sawyers Creek Ash Repository.
Action: Both issues will be investigated and Mr Whitty will be advised.
- f) **Alex Preema** – Fishing in Thompsons Creek Dam is the best it has been in years. It is a drawcard for anglers and the dam is on the tourist angler calendar.
- g) **Rob Baigent** – no issues to raise.

Next meeting - 29 August 2012