



ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

MEETING No. 113 - MINUTES

Wednesday 5th of May 2023

Attendance

Chair: Michael Poulton

Community Rep: Roland Roc (online), Kerry Daniels

Government Rep: Andrew Radojkovic (ERR), Glenn Killburn (ERR), Peter Vawdrey (EPA, Online), Cr Ben Taylor (CoB), Tanya McAteer (EPA SW team lead), Josh Driscoll (HVP), Carsen Berberich (CHW, Online)

BGM Staff: Matthew Mills (Site mine Engineer - tech services), Paul Carter (E&C manager), Georgia Lannen (E&C officer),

Administrators: Peter Crooks

Apologies: Heather Bice (Community rep.)

Meeting opens: 16:05

Welcome, Apologies, Introductions

Chair: Welcome to country, welcome members and visitors to the meeting; apologies presented.

Previous Meeting Minutes & Actions

- ❖ Anne Maree McArthie EPA attended meeting 112 but not showing the minutes.
- ❖ Accepted minutes for meeting 112 – accurate with the attendee added.
- ❖ Report back on blast felt on 14/12/23 – Nil to be completed as was under 10ppv and an informal investigation was completed. Matt Mills (BGM) advised faults within the geology or sympathetic detonation within the area are the cause of the higher reading.
- ❖ ToR/CoC to be brought forward at next meeting for confirmation.
- ❖ Nil conversation regarding 2nd chair had yet – will pick it up at a later date.

Site news

Paul – Entered voluntary administration 8th of March – Hall Chadwich administrators, would like to sell the mine as a going concern. Will be in the process for several months.

Peter – Administrators have agreed to continue operations going to sustain business and keep staff employed. Have been able to fund and finance business, while reinvigorating ongoing operations, namely TSF3 and application for TSF4. Trevor Callow resigned from General manager and Dale Rogers was appointed General manager for the administration process within 36hours of resignation.

Cr Ben – Declaration of interest as council and regarding TSF4 application.



Peter – Paul has ensured all environmental obligations are continuing to be met and we at EPA are satisfied that this is the case.

Paul – meeting all statutory requirements. Nothing that has halted, business as usual from an environmental perspective.

Andrew – Been in regular contact with the administrators to track the progress of the site. Regular attendance and pleased with the way things have unfolded since the administrators have taken over. Namely in the management of the tailings dam and Dry stack placements. A number of outstanding notices on the site, we are now in the process of closing them out.

Chair – Ack Roland is the only community member I the meeting. Highlighted the importance of the message getting out the community that the administrators and regulators of the site are confident with the current arrangements with the mine.

Peter – one of the things that is important, this operation both directly and indirectly engages a couple of thousand jobs in Ballarat that the community relies on. A significant amount of revenue ends up within the regional community. Highlighted the importance of working together to get the best solution for the mine and the community.

Chair – Hope that provides some confidence to the community.

Exploration Activities

Paul: No active exploration work undertaken over the last quarter. Nil change - Current exploration licenses are located at Snake valley and Buninyong, Ballarat West and Little Bendigo.

Mining Update

Paul:

- ❖ Mining development: 693.9 of development during the quarter, Inclusive of January 310.7m, February 180.9m, March 202.3m.
- ❖ Firings: 266 over the last quarter, inclusive of 27 Stopes (Production), 239 development.
- ❖ Upcoming production – Canton, Sovereign, Golden point, Llanberis and Britannia.
- ❖ Generally get complaints when firing within the Llanberris, as it is the most shallow part of the mine. As well as the Canton, due to the complex geology structures underground.

Community Engagement & Complaints

Paul:

- ❖ 20 community contacts for the quarter; 9 Complaints, 6 Feedback and 5 proactive community contacts.

Water Quality

Paul:

- ❖ Surface water quality, within licence limits – Elevated readings at YC9 monitoring point. There is a sign stating a wastewater spill from central highlands.

Carsen – Nil knowledge of wastewater spill however they are shoring up the bank upstream of this location. Should be finished in the next month or two.

Vibration Monitoring

Paul -

- ❖ 5 fully automated/remote out in the field – Solar powered, few extra swapping and changing of batteries with the sunshine not as evident in recent times.
- ❖ Vibration monitoring regulation limits:
 - 1 reading over 5ppv in January

Air Quality

Paul -

- ❖ Investigation into the exceedances from the previous quarter where there were some months of recorded exceedances in October, November. At sites D17, D4 and D15.
- ❖ Have forwarded the information into Glenn and Andrew at ERR
- ❖ A number of causes could have potentially been from Ballarat city council completed road upgrade works in Flockhart Street around D17
- ❖ Hazard reduction ground maintenance around D4
- ❖ Potential gauge tampering following application for TSF4. Once surveillance signs had been erected levels returned to normal levels.
- ❖ New Ambient air monitor has been installed within the White Horse gully. Real time readings and can be mobile if required. If TSF4 does go ahead the monitors will become part of monitoring during the construction phase.

Georgia – Originally purchase the 2 live monitors, 1 out in the field and second had to go back for repairs under warranty. The monitor within White Horse gully down from the D15 depositional gauge. PM10 and PM2.5 are actively monitored and tracked against NEPM AQ guidelines.

Glenn – When is the second monitor due to arrive?

Georgia – within the next week or so, once a location is chosen. Likely to be near the White Horse gully or nearby eastern haul roads. But will be confirmed within the next Quarterly report.

Paul – We are conscious of vandalism to the monitor as this is suspected to what happened to the second monitor originally. Need to choose a location not accessed by the public.

Andrew – Do you analyse the dust? Is this able to be?

Georgia – Depositional gauges have the ability to further analyse the dust and it is able to be analysed further.

Andrew – Can you go back historically?

Georgia – I believe they hold the samples for 3-6 months but will have to confirm the exact timeframe.

Projects & Approvals

Paul:

- ❖ Have officially had approval to remove sediment from Otway street site, once cashflow allows we will be removing the sediment back to TSF3. Part of our rehabilitation for the site

we will be handing the site back. Contaminated sediment originated from Llanberris many years ago.

- ❖ Northern dry Stack – work plan variation for stage 1B approved 8th of November 2022 and the facility is in use. Stage 2 will be opened up and commenced imminently, tender documents have been received and a down selection process will commence in the coming weeks. Once complete, works will commence on stage 2.

Chair – timing with that Paul? Do you see production going through continuously to that time?

Paul - production will continue throughout the process.

TSF4 Update

Chair:

- ❖ Community engagement plan hasn't changed a lot due to time delay with administration process. We have recommenced talks with Ballarat City Council for the approvals process.
- ❖ Drop in night held by council (date to be advised) for the objectors.

Peter – Can you give an update on the health human impact assessment?

Paul – Unable to comment on that at the moment, update will be released once available.

Chair – Timing for the drop in session?

Paul – ASAP, the person we have to engage with City of Ballarat is in negotiation currently to select an available date. This will be for objectors only. Post that the approval will be put to councillors to vote on, either way it will likely end up at VCAT. As either way the appeal from either side of the decision will lead that way.

Next meeting

Chair - Next meeting will be August. Any other business to discuss?

Roland – Discussed the repercussions within a community of a mine closing. Hoping for a positive outcome with a new buyer for the mine.

Chair – That's why it was so good to hear Peters comments regarding the situation. A business in troubled times does not mean its terminal.

Peter – Thank you for the comments of support, there is a significant opportunity for the community to work together. Appreciate the support.

Kerry – discussed the benefit of getting a text message before a stope is fired. Advised that he wishes to retire from the role within the ERC.

Chair – Noted the wishes to retire. Mentioned that we may have to consider who will be taking over the community positions.

Close of meeting: 16:43

Next meeting: TBA



Actions	Responsible	Due date
Discuss position of second Ambient air monitor	PC	Next Meeting
ERC Terms of Reference and Code of contact to be confirmed next meeting.	PC	Next Meeting