



ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

MEETING No. 117 - MINUTES

Wednesday 22nd of May 2024

Attendance

Chair: Michael Poulton

Community Rep: Heather Bice, Kerry Daniels

Government Rep: Andrew Radojkovic (ERR), Timothy Lubcke (ERR), Cr Ben Taylor (Ballarat city council, online).

BGM Staff: Mat Mills (Tech services superintendent), Paul Carter (HSE&C manager), Georgia Lannen (E&C officer), Chris Orchard (Health and Safety superintendent), Charles Carnie (GM)

Apologies: Peter March (Community Representative) Peter Vawdrey (EPA, Online),

Meeting opens: 14:30

Welcome, Apologies, Introductions

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

Charles: Introduction as new Victory minerals GM, demonstrating close ties to Ballarat.

Previous Meeting Minutes & Actions

Heather: Passed

Kerry: Second

- Nil actions carried forward

Site news

Paul: Acknowledged significant incident during the quarter. Full investigations in ongoing. Support ongoing to all involved in operations.

Chair: Acknowledged tragic event, and all affected by the incident. Know that there is significant concerns for all involved by those all around town. Know that it is acknowledged that risks are minimised as far as possible, and acknowledge we face risk everyday life. Thoughts go to all affected by this incident and wish you all the very best at this difficult time.

Paul: Appreciate the support, care and goodwill from the community.

Paul: The company continues to develop the business strategy and objectives to ensure stable production and future employment moving forward.

Charles: I am passionate about supporting the long-term sustainable operation. Excited stuff coming up.



Andrew: Confirming Dale Rogers is still Mine manager?

Charles: Dale is still Mine manager with Matthew Jackson as Alternate mine manager and we will continue to work out the arrangements moving forward.

Heather: Is there an update on where VACT are up to?

Paul: Nil update, still with the lawyers. VCAT are running behind schedule. Expecting any day. Everyone will find out at the same time.

Chair: It would not be unusual for a decision to be made in anywhere to a week to 6 months, the fact that no one knows is not unusual practice.

Exploration Activities

Paul: No active exploration work undertaken over the last quarter. Nil change from the last quarter or the one before that.

Mining Update

Mat:

Mining development: 828.7m of development during the quarter, Inclusive of January 214.7 mechanised meters and 84.2 Airleg meters, February 219.8 mechanised meters and 101.2 Airleg meters, March 176.5 mechanised meters and 32.3 Airleg meters.

Paul:

Firings: 363 over the last quarter, inclusive of 18 Stopes (Production), 345 development and air leg firings.

Stope locations for the quarter were within the Sovereign, Golden Point, Canton, Britannia and Llanberris. As always, we try and share it around the compartments. We are keeping out blasting as low as reasonably practicable. Tech services are doing a great job there.

Mat: Continuing to work with suppliers for any new information on improving practices.

Upcoming production – Canton, Sovereign, Golden point, Llanberis and Britannia.

Community Engagement & Complaints

Paul: 8 community contacts for the quarter; 6 Complaints and 2 feedback/Enquiries.

This shows as an improvement from previous quarter.

Heather: Received a number of complaints about windows rattling but have since ceased.

Paul: They are not recorded, as they have not been directly passed on.

Water Quality

Georgia: Surface water quality at southern wetlands discharge within licenced maximum threshold. YC point 1 wash dry in March, so nil results available as mentioned in ERC report.



Vibration Monitoring

Paul - 5 fully automated/remote out in the field for the quarter. Calibration of the monitors have been complete.

Vibration monitoring regulation limits:

Highest blast was a recorded following a blast in the Canton compartment on January 25 registering at 3.93ppv. 25 Stopes for the quarter

We acknowledge that we cannot exceed 10ppv for any blast and 95% of blasts must be below 5ppv. If we have an instance where we know we may have a bit of an issue. Discussions are had with the Tech services team and mitigate as much as reasonably practicable

Andrew: As Air legging has now ceased, are there any plans to recommence?

Charles: No plans to recommence. Acknowledge Air legging is a tool that mines use, to put in escape ways and requirements like that. My personal view is that risk reward ratio, on my watch I don't want that risk. But having said that if we need to rehab behind a refuge chamber or a similar requirement it may be considered.

Andrew: So this method is more suited for maintenance?

Charles: That how I see it. This was a fairly long trial to see how it preformed. It was possible but risk reward is not worth it.

Kerry: The text message you send out rattles the house more than the morning blasts we feel.

Paul: maximum monthly vibration has significantly decreased over the last couple of months. Which is a good result.

Air Quality

Georgia –

All 7 depositional dust gauges stationed around the boundary, collects dust fallout. Results showed well below the 4g/m²/month. Nil issues

Ambient air monitoring over the quarter. March exceedances, currently in talks with EPA regarding causes and mitigation if required. They have been attributed to a string of hot summer days with local bushfires and Northerly gusty conditions.

Over these days, given the severe conditions we took extra precaution to ensure all dust management measures were in place.

Environmentally, with the strong northerly wind a lot of smoke was being brought over site.

Further investigation found that the internal use of a newly formed track was triggering the Southern AAM in the like of PM₁₀. These peaks have reduced significantly since ceasing the use of the track. DDG D15 is positioned externally and in line with the Southern AAM. This returned monthly results well below the maximum 4g/m²/month. I am confident that while the temporary use of the internal track may have stirred up some dust locally, that it did not reach the boundary and have any external impact.

Andrew: What is the date of the maximum peak?



Georgia: 5th March. Around this time there were TFBs, Temps above 35 degrees.

Andrew: Were there fires at the time?

Georgia: There were fires at this time, they are environmental factors that we need to take into account.

Our Ambient air monitor 1 continues to be located within White Horse gully and has been since January 2023. Real time readings are monitored, and data is obtained.

The second Ambient air monitor returned from the manufacturer following repairs, it was installed in Whitehorse gully temporarily and has since been moved to the northern end of the site to monitor exiting the site towards the sensitive receptors.

All results are within NEPM guideline limits for PM10 and PM2.5.

Antti: does your operation run 24 hours?

Georgia: On the surface we do not run 24 hours. As we are bound by noise restrictions.

Antti: At air-watch we present the data as hourly averages. And would recommend you do the same.

Georgia: We present our data over as the 24-hour averages in line with NEPM guidelines

Projects & Approvals

Paul:

Otway street - As we did last quarter we have approval to remove sediment from site. With everything that has happened, we have not moved forward on that. We may need to revisit the strategy.

Chair: Confirming that is to remove sludge from here to site?

Paul: No this is the removal from Otway Street and bring it back to site. It is our main ticket item in the rehabilitation of the site. There is the view that this will be handed back to DEECA once the land has been rehabilitated. We have water monitoring bores which show results of no concerns, there is concrete to be cleaned up and a small cap placed over the last of the capped shaft on the land. Completing a flora and fauna survey and get ticked off and handed back.

Northern dry Stack stage 2B will be underway and will give us further capacity on the hopes of TSF4s approval.

Stage 2 of the dry Stack is about to commence construction

TSF4 Update

Paul: Awaiting approval as discussed earlier.

Questions/other issues to raise

Chair: Called for any other matters to be discussed

Andrew: What are the EPA doing in regard to the air quality data?



Georgia: They have requested the relevant data over the period of exceedances, and we are yet to receive any further instruction.

Next meeting

Close of meeting: 15:04

Next meeting: TBA

Actions	Responsible	Due date