



Mr Chris Lauritzen
MACH Energy Pty Ltd
GPO Box 94
Brisbane QLD 4001

Dear Mr Lauritzen,

**Mount Pleasant Coal Project (DA 92/97 MOD 4)
Request for Additional Information**

I am writing to seek additional information to inform the Department's continued assessment of the fourth modification application for the Mount Pleasant Coal Project (DA 92/97 MOD 4).

Surface Water

The Department considers that the Response to Submissions (RTS) does not fully address matters raised by NSW Health in relation to surface water impacts. NSW Health commented on the potential for water discharges to occur by way of return flows to the proposed water offtake point from the Hunter River. However, the response in the RTS relates to the Mount Pleasant Discharge Dam and the discharge infrastructure approved under the Bengalla consent.

NSW Health has reinforced its concerns over the information provided in relation to the new discharge point proposed under Modification 4, including the use of a bi-directional pipeline for intake from the Hunter River (particularly if water travelling through this pipeline is intended to be used for potable water supply) and the possibility that the location of the pipeline could lead to impacts on the Muswellbrook town water supply, especially if discharges occur during low flow periods (see attached correspondence from NSW Health).

Accordingly, the Department is seeking a further response that clarifies whether Modification 4 is still seeking approval for an alternative water discharge point associated with the new water offtake point from the Hunter River, describes how water quality would be managed to address NSW Health's concerns over the bi-directional nature of the proposed pipeline (including details of how Mount Pleasant intends to ensure the quality of its own potable water supplies), and includes further information on the predicted water quality impacts associated with discharges to the Hunter River, including any potential impacts to the Muswellbrook town water supply.

Lighting

The EA and RTS identify that MACH Energy is proposing to construct visual bunding along Wybong Road and to construct three visual lighting screens over the rail spur, to mitigate the visual and lighting impacts of trains on road users and residents in Muswellbrook township.

In order to assess the efficacy of these proposed mitigation measures, please provide further information and figures demonstrating the directions and extent that train headlights travelling in an easterly direction would be visible to receivers.

Geotechnical Investigation and Private Land Ownership

Please provide an update regarding the progress of the geotechnical investigation requested by Subsidence Advisory NSW in respect of the old workings in the vicinity of the development and consultations with private land owners in the vicinity of the proposed pump station adjacent to the Hunter River (referred to on page 62 of the Environmental Assessment).

Please note that the Department may wish to seek clarification on additional matters as it continues to progress with its assessment of the modification. In particular, please note that the Department has not received further comment from Muswellbrook Shire Council following the publication of the RTS.

The Department will be in separate contact shortly regarding its request, in June 2018, for additional noise and air quality information. Please consolidate your response to this request with the request for additional noise and air quality information.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Tertius Greyling at the details listed above.

Yours sincerely



Howard Reed

27.7.18

Director Resource Assessments

Att: Correspondence from OEH (11 July 2018)

11 July 2018

Tertius Greyling
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer
NSW Department of Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Greyling

Mount Pleasant Coal Mine Modification 4 (DA 92/97 MOD 4) – Response to Submissions

I refer to your email of 28 June 2018 inviting comment on the Response to Submissions (RTS) exhibited on the NSW Department of Planning & Environment website in relation to the Mount Pleasant Coal Mine Modification 4.

Hunter New England Population Health (HNE Health) has reviewed the RTS report paying particular attention to the management of air quality, noise, water and issues which may have an impact on public health. The following points should be considered in the approval process for this project.

Surface Water

Pipeline Location:

The Modification includes the relocation of the Hunter River water supply pump station and water pipeline. The new location for the proposed water pipeline is shown in Figure 5 of the Environmental Assessment (EA), and is approximately 1km downstream of the Muswellbrook town water supply pumping station. We raised concerns regarding how the quantity and quality of the Muswellbrook town water supply may be impacted by any water extraction from, or discharge into the river by the project. The response provided on page 17 in the RTS appears to refer to the current approved location of the pipeline, which is several kilometres further downstream of the town water offtake.

The RTS for Modification 4 does not adequately address our concerns regarding the proposed new location of the pipeline. Due to the close proximity, we seek clarification from the proponent regarding how the discharges and extraction of water at the proposed new location may impact on the Muswellbrook town water supply, particularly during periods of low flow in the river.

Potable Water Supply for the project:

The RTS indicates that the Modification includes a single bi-directional pipeline to take water from the river for potable water supply and other uses, as well as to discharge excess water from the mine site to the river. The quality of water being discharged via this pipeline is unknown, and presents a contamination risk for the water extracted for treatment to potable standards. To address this risk a second pipeline could be used solely for extraction from the river or treated water for potable purposes could be sourced from an approved potable water carter.

Hunter New England Local Health District
ABN 63 598 010 203

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We understand that any water discharged via this pipeline would need to be discharged under a licence issued by the Environmental Protection Authority in compliance with the Protection of the Environment (Operations) Act.

If you require any further information please telephone Carolyn Herlihy, Environmental Health Officer on 4924 6477.

Yours Sincerely,



Professor David Durrheim
Director Health Protection
Hunter New England Population Health