



Your Reference: 9038493
Our Reference: V11/108
OUT11/530

Mr Colin Phillips
A/Manager Mining Projects
Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Phillips

Angus Place Coal Project (06 0021 Modification 1)

I refer to your letter received 29 November 2010 inviting comments, including any recommended conditions of approval, from Industry and Investment NSW (I&I NSW) on the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed modification to the Angus Place Colliery project approval.

The modification will result in the following activities.

- Mining of two new longwall panels, 910 and 900 West. This will result in the recovery of 4.9 to 5.6 million tonnes of additional coal depending on which of two options is chosen. (Option 1 has higher coal recovery, Option 2 has less coal recovery but includes development of headings for a potential future mining area to the north-east)
- Installation of a dewatering bore facility at the eastern end of LW 910, including additional infrastructure consisting of an access track (new section and widening of an existing track), powerline extension and extension of the Delta Water Transfer Scheme to allow extracted water to be transported to Wallerawang Power Station.
- Upgrading of the Angus Place pit top water management system at the ROM coal stockpile.

Maximum coal production per year will increase from 3.5 to 4 million tonnes of coal. Employment levels will increase from 215 to 225 and up to 75 temporary contractors will be required for up to 15 months. Mine life will be extended from June 2014 to 2016.

ASSESSMENT

The EA is a comprehensive document which appears to adequately address the environmental issues and potential impacts of the proposal.

It is noted that the layout of the Longwalls has been designed to avoid significant rock features (Section 3.4.1 of the EA). Similarly, the location of the dewatering bore has been chosen to minimise the level of disturbance which will result.

FORESTS NSW

Forests NSW main priorities relate to protection of the Newnes State Forest within which the proposed surface infrastructure is located. Forests NSW are satisfied that the I&I NSW-Mineral Resources and the Department of Environment Climate Change & Water are working with Angus Place Colliery to ensure protection of sensitive surface features and management of subsidence impacts. On this basis Forest NSW provide the following comments for consideration by the Department of Planning:

- Installation of the new dewatering bore is noted as requiring approx 0.28 ha of clearing. While this may reflect the final compound size, through previous experience with construction of Centennial Coal (Springvale Colliery) adjacent "Bore 6", Forests NSW estimates that disturbance from truck movements, storage of supplies, parking, and water management is likely to well exceed this area. In addition there may be a requirement to further clear an "Asset Protection Zone" around this infrastructure, upon consultation with the NSW Rural Fire Service. It is important that the approval reflects the likelihood of an area greater than 0.28ha being disturbed by this installation.
- Overhead powerlines are regular sources of bushfires. To protect the forest from fire Forests NSW requests that **all new powerline installations be underground**. Any above ground transformers should be located within existing/new compounds where possible.
- Justification for widening of existing road alignments to 25 metres for the Dewatering Bore Access Tracks is not provided within the EA. Forests NSW considers that the width of clearing should be that required for a suitable access track and associated trenching, which may in fact be contained within the width of the existing track.
- Should approval be granted to Angus Place Colliery for proposed modifications, Forests NSW will review the existing Occupation Permit (held by Angus Place Colliery) to ensure protection and management of public assets is adequately managed.

MINERAL RESOURCES

SUBSIDENCE

The assessment by I&I NSW is relevant only on issues of mine subsidence that may arise due to the proposed extraction of two longwalls, namely, LW 900W and LW910 (including its two proposed options).

The Department's focus is on potential major subsidence issues that warrant specific consideration in relation to the proposed mine layout at this planning stage, rather those requiring risk management later on pursuant to the requirements of Extraction Plans.

In this context, the proposed subject longwalls are expected to cause minimal subsidence impacts in addition to what have already occurred due to the extraction of the nearby longwalls.

Matters regarding potential cumulative subsidence impacts on natural features, importantly, the Newnes Plateau Hanging Swamps, may require advice from relevant experts.

No specific conditions of approval relating to subsidence are recommended.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I&I NSW recommend the following condition be incorporated in any project approval that may be granted.

1) Rehabilitation Management Plan

The Proponent shall prepare and implement a Rehabilitation Management Plan to the satisfaction of the Director-General I&I NSW. The Rehabilitation Management Plan must:

- (a) be prepared in consultation with I&I NSW, Forests NSW, Department of Energy Climate Change Water, Department of Planning, NSW Office of Water, Sydney Catchment Authority and Lithgow City Council;*
- (b) be prepared in accordance with the relevant I&I NSW Guideline,*
- (c) cover the entire Angus Place Colliery operation, not just those areas covered in this Modification, and*
- (d) be approved by the Director-General I&I NSW prior to commencement of Longwalls 910 and 900 West and preferably within 12 months of the date of approval.*

CONCLUSION

I&I NSW supports the proposed project covered by the EA. Environmental impacts of the proposal are relatively minor while the economic and social impacts are significant, including extending the life of Angus Place Colliery by approximately two years and net production benefits of between \$73 million and \$93 million.

Yours sincerely



William Hughes
Director Industry Coordination