

Part 3A Environmental Assessment (Project Application 08_0061)

Gas Pipeline (North-South Route), Liddell Power Station

Appendix B

CONSULTATION

Your reference : S07/00290
Our reference : DOC08/15473; 270050A27; PART 3A
Contact : Karen Marler, 49086803



NSW Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001
Attention: Mr Kieran Thomas

14 APR 2008

Dear Mr Thomas

**Proposed Coal Seam Gas Pipeline (North-South Route) for Liddell Power Station –
Application No. 08_0061**

I refer to your letter dated 7 April 2008 seeking comment from the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) regarding the Director-General's Environmental Assessment Requirements (DG EARs) for the above proposal.

DECC has reviewed the details of the project as provided in the preliminary assessment report and considers that the key environmental aspects of this proposal are:

- impacts on threatened species and their habitat,
- impacts on potential endangered ecological communities, such as the 'Warkworth Sands Woodland EEC; and
- Aboriginal cultural heritage impacts.

Threatened species, their habitat and ecological communities

There is no information provided with the preliminary assessment report with regard to impacts on threatened species, however DECC is aware that the in original proposal the pipeline was to traverse in total approximately 4 kilometres of Warkworth Sands Woodland. DECC requires a higher level of assessment than the desk top study proposed in the project application documents.

To address likely impacts on threatened species (including their habitat), populations and ecological communities, the proponent will need to engage a suitably qualified environmental consultant to conduct an appropriate flora and fauna survey and provide an assessment report. This report will need to evaluate and mitigate any adverse impacts on such species, populations and communities on the subject site and within the immediate vicinity.

The Department of Environment and Conservation NSW is now known as
the Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW

PO Box 488G, Newcastle NSW 2300
117 Bull Street, Newcastle West, NSW 2302
Tel: (02) 4908 6800 Fax: (02) 4908 6810
ABN 30 841 387 271
www.environment.nsw.gov.au

Department of **Environment and Conservation** NSW

Surveys are required to be undertaken during optimal climatic and seasonal conditions for all potentially occurring flora and fauna species and need to consider issues such as migratory species movements, the availability of shelter, breeding, pollination patterns and prerequisites, and also the relative availability of food resources and habitat.

Surveys should be undertaken in accordance with 'Threatened Biodiversity Survey and Assessment: Guidelines for Developments and Activities' (DEC – November 2004), available at: http://www3.environment.nsw.gov.au/pdfs/tbsa_guidelines_draft.pdf

Aboriginal cultural heritage values

To address and document any potential impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage the DECC will require the proponent to engage a suitably qualified Aboriginal cultural heritage consultant to assess the occurrence of Aboriginal objects or sites on the proposed development site.

If Aboriginal objects or sites are likely to be found on the proposed development site then the proponent should undertake surveys to determine the cultural heritage values of the site; and report how those values may be impacted by the development and provide appropriate avoidance, mitigation or compensatory measures. The EA needs to clearly demonstrate that effective community consultation with Aboriginal communities has been undertaken in determining and assessing the impacts, developing mitigation options and finalisation recommendations.

In carrying out the assessment the proponent may wish to refer to the following guidelines:

- Interim Community Consultation Requirements for Applicants, available at: http://www3.environment.nsw.gov.au/PDFs/interim_consultation_guidelines.pdf
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Standards and Guidelines Kit, available at: http://www3.environment.nsw.gov.au/PDFs/aboriginal_heritage_guidelines_kit_final.pdf

Other environmental considerations

Other environment protection or conservation issues that also need to be addressed in the EA are provided in Attachment A.

The DECC requests that four (4) copies of the EA be provided for assessment to the Regional Manager Hunter, PO Box 488G, Newcastle 2300.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Karen Marler on 49086803.

Yours sincerely



MITCHELL BENNETT
Head Regional Operations Unit – Hunter Region
Environment Protection and Regulation

Enclosure: Attachment A - DECC Director-General's Environmental Assessment Requirements

File No 402.5364

22nd April 2008



Mr Keiran Thomas
Major Infrastructure Assessments
Department of Planning
POBox 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001



Re: Coal Seam Gas Supply Line – Muswellbrook and Singleton LGA's (08 0061)

Dear Sir

I refer to your email dated 3 April 2008, and you are advised as follows.

Following revision of your forwarded project application, the Authority agrees with the proposed placement of the gas main along the Golden Highway. You're advised that future detailed drawings of the planned route must be forwarded prior to any approval being granted. The Authorities major concern within your project area is the State Road Network including the Golden Highway and as such only requires detail for the sections within the State Road Reserve.

You're also advised that at no time will the Authority have dealings with contractors you have engaged unless prior arrangement from the client (Department of Planning) has been directed to the RTA for concurrence.

All works within the Road reserve of The State Road Network need RTA approval prior to commencement of works and as such any engagement of contractors prior to approval is discouraged.

The following is a list of basic generic standard requirements that must be complied with for works within the road reserve.

1. All pipes under the road are to be bored under the road with a minimum cover of 1.5m to the top of the casing under the road pavement and 0.9m cover elsewhere within the road reserve. Where steel casings are not used then a trace wire is to be provided to assist with the future location of the line. Pipes installed under the road are to be sleeved and grouted to maintain a water tight seal to the extremities of the road reserve.

Roads and Traffic Authority



59 Darby Street
Newcastle NSW 2300

Locked Bag 30 Newcastle NSW 2300
DX7813 Newcastle

T 02 4924 0240

www.rta.nsw.gov.au

2. No part of the sealed road pavement may be opened for the purpose of performing any aspect of these works. Any breakout of the pavement required for launch and retrieval of bores will require additional approval and detailed submission of construction methods are to be supplied accordingly.
3. Any traffic control requirement associated with this project must be undertaken in accordance with the current version of the RTA publication "Traffic Control at Work Sites Manual". Allowance must be made for pedestrian movement in accordance with AS 1742.10-1990: "Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices – Pedestrian Control and Protection" where appropriate. No lane closures are permitted without the authority of the RTA Traffic Commander. The Applicant must advise the RTA Hunter Regional Traffic Commander on mobile telephone numbers – 4924 0617 / 0411 406 845 or E/mail at: ROL_Hunter_Newcastle@rta.nsw.gov.au or via facsimile on (02) 49240 350 at least fourteen (14) days prior to commencement of the works. Applications MUST be received no later than the Monday morning of the week proceeding the proposed week of works.
4. Any traffic accidents occurring day or night in the vicinity of the work site MUST be immediately reported by the Applicant to the NSW Transport Management Centre (TMC) on telephone number 131700.
5. The Applicant accepts that the RTA is not liable for any sub-surface conditions or existing services encountered.
6. It is entirely the responsibility of the Applicant to identify and avoid any unrelated in or above ground infrastructure.
7. Any aspect of the road reserve that may be affected by the works referred to and performed by the Applicant or their Representatives or Sub-Contractors in the performance of this project will be reinstated to a level reflecting pre-existing plantings, finishes and or surface levels and materials evident on site prior to commencement. Any concrete finishes affected by the proposed works will be reinstated by use of full slab replacement. The Applicant will be required to advise the relevant Council of any works likely to impact on Council owned infrastructure. (This does not cover issues within Clause 2. above).
8. The Service / Infrastructure Owner is wholly responsible for ensuring the accuracy and adequacy of the design and any other related issues which may impact on the functionality, serviceability or structural integrity of the proposed infrastructure. The RTA is under no obligation and accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of any drawings provided or the functionality of the service design associated with this project.
9. It is in the Applicant's interest to provide site photographs or digital images of the site prior to commencement. Copies of photographs or images should be forwarded to the Asset Officer, RTA Newcastle Locked Bag 30, NEWCASTLE 2300.

Muswellbrook Shire Council

12 MAY 2008

ENQUIRIES

PLEASE ASK FOR Chris Gidney
DIRECT 02 6549 3770
OUR REFERENCE 533.000
YOUR REFERENCE



MUSWELLBROOK SHIRE COUNCIL
ADMINISTRATION CENTRE
MUSWELLBROOK NSW 2333
ABN 86 864 180 944

16 May 2008

**Acting Senior Environmental Planner
Major Infrastructure Assessments
Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001**

Dear Madam,

Re: Coal seam gas supply pipeline (North-South route) for Liddell Power Station

Thank you for your letter dated 3 April 2008 (reference SO7/00290) requesting Council's comments for items to be included in the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the subject project.

In reply I would submit the following matters for consideration:

- The proposal should fit with the Hunter Regional Environmental Plan objectives.
- The developer should identify and describe how the proposed project fits with the relevant zoning in the current Muswellbrook Shire Council Local Environmental Plan.
- The developer should identify how sediment and erosion control from surface water runoff over exposed areas from the pipeline installation is to be controlled and maintained.
- Environmental monitoring should be undertaken in accordance with relevant Australian Standards before, during and after the installation of the gas supply pipeline to ensure any surface and ground water body disturbed during the process has water quality suitable for primary contact and livestock watering as per ANZECC Criteria and that disturbance minimizes water level change.
- The developer should identify the vulnerable and threatened plant and animal species which have been located in the disturbance area of the proposed gas supply pipe and what if any species will be removed for the area.

What action is to be taken to ensure that vegetation providing habitat for vulnerable and protected animal species is not disturbed and/or replaced?

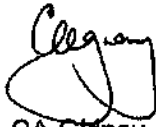
- The EA should contain a complete biodiversity assessment.
- An air quality impact assessment should be provided to identify the potential change in composition of emissions from Liddell stationary emission sources from using long wall methane gas in production and if this is predicted to impact the existing EPA licence criteria for the stationary emission sources.
- Any aboriginal cultural or physical heritage areas near the proposed gas pipeline should be detailed along with consultation with relevant indigenous groups and a mitigation or protection strategy to avoid disturbance to these areas.

S:\ENVIRON\PLANNING\General correspondence\2008\2008.05.16_response to DoP gas pipeline project_533.000.doc
ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE GENERAL MANAGER PO BOX 122 MUSWELLBROOK NSW 2333
TELEPHONE: (02) 6549 3700 FAX: (02) 6549 3701 EMAIL: council@muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au WEB: www.muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au

These inclusions are based on the information provided in the Major Projects application form.

The comments exclude legislation, planning, and environmental issues which the preliminary application has identified as being further investigated and explained in greater detail in the formal Environmental Assessment process and which would be additional information required for the final assessment of the proposed project.

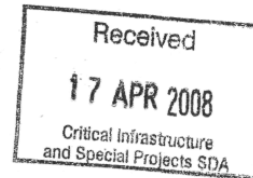
Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CA Gidney', written over a rectangular stamp area.

CA Gidney
Director Environmental Services

Enquiries to: M Ihlein
02 6578 7290

Our Ref:
Your Ref: S07/00290



15 April 2008

Major Infrastructure Assessment
NSW Department of Planning
G P O Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Subject: Proposed Coal Seam Gas Supply Pipeline (North-South Route) for Liddell Power Station

I refer to the Department's correspondence dated 3 April 2008 and received on 9 April 2008, seeking comments regarding matters to be addressed in the Environmental Assessment for the abovementioned project.

The main issue for Singleton Council would be the extent to which the pipeline traverses dedicated public roads; impacts on any other public infrastructure; and results in any adverse impacts on private property owners either during or after construction.

It is noted the proposed route may affect private landowners and a community consultation process is proposed.

Please contact the undersigned should further clarification be required.



Mark Ihlein
Manager – Planning & Development Services
MI.mw

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the General Manager:
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AGENCY CONSULTATIONS – LIDDELL GAS PIPELINE

RTA Hunter Newcastle Office

Preliminary pipeline route details were submitted for review and comment. The use of the Golden Highway road easement and under bored road crossings are acceptable subject to the Authority's conditions and approval.

NSW Department of Primary Industries – Mineral Resources Maitland Office

The outcome of discussions is that the route should avoid potential conflict with any future open cut coal mining. The route in this application takes into account the constraint guidelines proposed in these discussions.

Mine Subsidence Board Singleton Office

The proposal was reviewed at a meeting of the parties. A substantial part of the pipeline route uses established infrastructure corridors within Macquarie Generation owned land. Mining is excluded in these areas so they are not subject to mine subsidence.

Other pipeline sections could potentially be undermined in the future or will pass near mining operations. Where necessary the detailed pipeline design will take into account the impact of subsidence and/or blasting and will, when available, be submitted to the Mine Subsidence Board for approval.

Singleton Shire Council Singleton

Macquarie Generation has conferred with council officers and presented a project outline to a council meeting at the preliminary Part 3A application stage. This consultation was updated in May 2008 with details of changes made since the original presentation.

NSW Department of Water and Energy Sydney Office

Macquarie Generation has in a meeting briefed the Department on the project. Action arising was a meeting with IPART where it was established that NGAC accreditation for gas delivered by the project would be incorporated into an existing Liddell Power Station accreditation.

Other Agencies

Letters have been written to the following agencies to advise them of the Project.

- NSW Department of Lands
- NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change
- Commonwealth Department of Environment and Water Resources