



Our reference: : DOC15/378423-13; SF14/12226
Contact: : Kharl Turnbull – 02 6773 7000 – armidale@epa.nsw.gov.au
Date : 20 November 2015

Ms Rose-Anne Hawkeswood
Resource Assessments
NSW Dept Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Email: roseanne.hawkeswood@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Hawkeswood,

RE: NARRABRI COAL PROJECT MP MODIFICATION 5 (08_0144 Mod 5)

I refer to the Response to Submissions for the modification application for Narrabri Coal Mine (08_0144 MOD 5) referred to the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) on 6 November 2015.

The EPA has reviewed the Response to Submissions, specifically additional information provided to address noise issues raised by the EPA on 15 October 2015.

Based on the information in the report titled, '*Narrabri Mine Modification 5 – Environmental Assessment*', provided to the EPA on 24 September 2015, and the information provided in the Response to Submissions dated 6 November 2015, the EPA is able to support the proposed modifications. The EPA advises the existing conditions on Environment Protection Licence #12789 (EPL) are adequate to address environmental impacts from the proposed modification.

The EPA notes Narrabri Coal Operations Pty Ltd is seeking to increase the annual run of mine coal production from 8MTpa to 11MTpa and also make a number of changes to underground mine geometry. The increase in annual production will increase the average number of train movements per day and also increase the number of weeks per year train movements occur. The EPA also notes noise non-compliances were identified in June/July 2015 and related to dozer operations on the run-of-mine and product coal stockpiles.

Noise

The EPA assesses compliance with noise limits based on the conditions of the EPL. The EPL specifies noise limits that apply at all privately-owned residences, including the neighbouring property 'Oakleigh', as well as meteorological conditions under which the limits apply, being up to and including F stability category atmospheric conditions. The EPL also requires monitoring of meteorological conditions, including temperature inversion based on the sigma theta method, at the existing meteorological station at the premises.

The Response to Submissions state that during attended noise monitoring periods, Narrabri Coal Operations Pty Ltd deploy two temperature gauges to measure temperature inversion strength and that they intend on installing a temperature inversion tower to enable temperature to be recorded continuously. It should be noted that this method of measuring temperature inversion is not specified in the EPL. It should also be noted that the EPA does not and has not required Narrabri Coal Operations Pty Ltd to install a

temperature inversion tower at the premises. The EPA believes the existing noise conditions on the EPL are appropriate for regulating noise generated from the premises.

The EPA's expectation is that EPL noise limits will be met and the on-site meteorological station identified on the EPL will be used to confirm inversion conditions.

Water

The EPL identifies three wet weather water discharge points at the premises and associated water quality limits that apply during discharge events. The EPA notes the proposed modification will not significantly affect the water management system at the premises and minor amendments to the site water management system are proposed. Narrabri Coal Operations Pty Ltd should ensure that site water management system complies with the requirements of both the EPL and POEO Act.

Air

The EPA has reviewed the air quality assessment for the proposed modification and advises the assessment is adequate. No additional conditions are recommended by the EPA beyond the existing EPL conditions.

Please contact Kharl Turnbull on (02) 6773 7000 if you wish to discuss this matter.

Yours sincerely



REBECCA SCRIVENER
Acting Head, Regional Operations Unit - Armidale
Environment Protection Authority