NSW GOVERNMENT | Resources & Energy

Your Reference: S04/01440
Our Reference: V11/108
OUT11/15413

Mr Howard Reed
Manager, Mining Projects
Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention Sara Wilson

Dear Mr Reed

Environmental Assessment
Ulan Coal Continued Operations Project (MP 08_0184 MOD 1)

I refer to your letter dated 27 July 2011 inviting comments from the Department of Trade & Investment, Regional Infrastructure & Services (DTIRIS) on the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Ulan Coal's Continuation Operations Project and recommendations on conditions of approval.

Xstrata Coal proposes to continue coal mining operations and use existing approved infrastructure surface facilities within the current mining leases of Ulan Colliery.

Technical officers of DTIRIS have reviewed the EA and provide the following comments relating to; rehabilitation and mine closure, aquatic habitat and agriculture land.

Rehabilitation and Mine Closure

Ulan West, No. 3 Mine

The proposed modifications to the Ulan West and Ulan No. 3 mine panel layout are minor and unlikely to lead to any adverse impacts.

North 1 Mine

The proposed new panels of the North 1 mine (LWC - LWG) represent new development and an extraction of coal not previously considered under the 2010 approval. Provided these panels are mined subject to appropriate subsidence management approvals, DTIRIS has no objections to planning approval being given to this development.

Concrete Batching Plant

The EA adequately constrains the proposed construction, operation and eventual decommissioning of this facility. An amendment to the Mining Operations Plan and revision of security will be required prior to the commencement of construction.

Subsidence
DTIRIS will have further comments on subsidence related issues following the review of the subsidence management plan and final site inspections by DTIRIS subsidence engineers.

Aquatic Habitat and Agricultural Land
DTIRIS has no objections to the EA regarding either of these areas.

Conclusion
Ulan Colliery is a long term established coal mine and has satisfactorily demonstrated to DTIRIS its commitment towards stakeholder engagement, progressive rehabilitation and forward mine closure planning. DTIRIS supports the Ulan Coal Continued Operations Project for the continuation of coal mining operations within the Western Coalfield. The continuation of operations will maximise the valuable coal resource recovery within the colliery.

If you have any general enquiries regarding this project please contact Mr Steve Cozens, Industry Coordination on (02) 8289 3929.

Yours sincerely

William Hughes
Director Industry Coordination

24/8/11