

19 April 2024



EnergyAustralia

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Emily Murray
Assessment Officer
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

Via: [DPIE Major Projects Portal](#)

Dear Ms Murray,

**Mt Piper Power Station Ash Placement Project – PA 09_0186
(Lamberts North Ash Repository MOD 1) – Condition D5**

As requested by the DPHI, via email on 17 April 2024, please find responses to the required questions below.

1. Proposed timing of commencing operation of Stage 2A

The proposed timing of commencing operation of Stage 2A is from the first week of June 2024. This is based on the approved capacity of Stage 1A/B being reached and continued ash placement being able to be performed safely and securely.

2. Provide response to the EPA's request regarding:

i) Calibration of the site water balance

The water balance report recommends that further calibration of the water balance model should be undertaken. EnergyAustralia is committed to this. Daily level observations of storage level in the on-site storages (**LNAR 2, 3, 4 and 5**) are being completed. As future stages of the ash repository are required to become operational, this daily storage level data will be utilised to inform the water balance and confirm appropriate calibration parameters.

ii) Contingency measures to ensure nil-discharge.

Lamberts North Ash Repository (**LNAR**) is not an approved discharge site under Mt Piper's Environment Protection Licence (**EPL**) 13007. Based on the findings of the water balance report, EnergyAustralia do not seek to amend EPL 13007 to allow discharges from the LNAR on-site storages (LNAR 2, 3, 4 and 5).

As per the approved Project Approval (PA 09_0186), transfer of water from LNAR to the Mount Piper Power Station (MPPS) is allowable. To ensure nil-discharge from the site, any excess water in the LNAR ponds due to significant rainfall events will be transferred back to the Mt Piper Power Station.

The following are identified in Section 4.3.1 of the Water Balance Report as multiple disposal mechanisms for excess water in the LNAR ponds:

- Reuse of higher salinity water (from LNAR3) to condition ash and place it as Brine Conditioned Ash (BCA).
- Reuse of water (from LNAR2, 4 and 5) to condition ash and place it as Water Conditioned Ash (WCA).
- Transfer of water (from LNAR 2, 4 and 5) to MPPS settling ponds to allow for treatment through two Brine Concentrators (with a total flow capacity of 4.4 ML/day) to allow for water to be used as part of the power generation process.
- Transfer of higher salinity water (from LNAR3) to MPPS Waste Ponds.

In addition to the above, Mt Piper Power Station conducts bi-weekly meetings focused on Water Operations, where pond levels (across MPPS and LNAR) and upcoming rainfall are discussed, to ensure sufficient capacity, management and preparation to comply with nil-discharge requirement.

If the DPHI has any questions in regard to the above matter, please do not hesitate to contact me on (02) 6354 8238 or by email Alicia.deVos@energyaustralia.com.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alicia de Vos', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alicia de Vos

Senior Environment Officer
EnergyAustralia NSW