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Angus Place Mine Extension Project (SSD-5602): Adequacy of Environmental Assessment

Dear Gen,

I refer to your correspondence dated 10 March 2020 inviting the Resources Regulator to provide advice regarding the adequacy of the Angus Place Mine Extension Project (SSD-5602), herein referred to as the Project.

Development Details

The Project, an underground coal mine, is located approximately 15 kilometres to the northwest of the regional city of Lithgow and 120 kilometres west northwest of Sydney in New South Wales.

A new SSD application (SSD 5602) and supporting Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was submitted to NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) in April 2014 (2014 EIS) for the Angus Place Mine Extension Project (APMEP). In 2015 a decision was made by Centennial Angus Place Pty Limited (Centennial Angus) to place the Angus Place Colliery into care and maintenance following the completion of secondary extraction. A review of the APMEP has now been completed to take into consideration up to date information obtained from the adjacent Springvale Mine as well as recent changes in operational requirements.

The Project proposes to:

- Extend the life of the mine to 31 December 2053;
- Increase in Project Application Area from 10,460ha to 10,551ha;
- Increase in full time equivalent (FTE) personnel from 300 to 450;
- Increase the extraction rate up to 4.5 million tonnes per annum of ROM coal from the Lithgow Seam underlying the Project Application Area;
- Development of underground roadway connections between the Angus Place Colliery underground mine workings and the Springvale Mine underground mine workings;
- Transfer up to 4 Mtpa of run-of-mine (ROM) coal to the Angus Place pit top for processing;
- Transfer up to 4.5 Mtpa of ROM coal by underground conveyor to the Springvale Mine pit top via proposed new underground connection roadways for handling and processing;
- Enlargement of the ROM coal stockpile at the Angus Place Colliery pit top from 90,000 t to 110,000 t capacity;

- Construction, Installation and operation of the approved but not yet constructed 4.5 m shaft at the Angus Place Ventilation Facility;
- Construction and operation of one additional downcast shaft and mine services boreholes within the proposed Angus Place Ventilation Facility;
- Construction and operation of additional dewatering facilities and associated infrastructure on the Newnes Plateau to support mining in the 1000 panel area; and
- Transfer of mine inflows from the existing and proposed workings at Angus Place Colliery to the Springvale Water Treatment Project (SSD 7972) for treatment and beneficial reuse at the Mount Piper Power Station.

Environment and Rehabilitation

The Mining Act Inspectorate within the Resources Regulator has responsibility for providing strategic advice for environmental issues pertaining to the proposed project in so far as they relate to or affect rehabilitation. Based on a review of the application, rehabilitation commitments specific to the impacts to hanging swamps and wetlands associated with longwall mining have not been specified. The Regulator request that this information be provided to ensure that rehabilitation obligations are adequately defined with respect to these features.

It should also be noted that this review does not represent the Resources Regulator's endorsement of the proposed rehabilitation methodologies as presented in the EA. Under the conditions of a mining authority granted under the *Mining Act 1992*, the Resources Regulator, requires an authority holder to adopt a risk-based approach to achieving the required rehabilitation outcomes. The applicability of the controls to achieve effective and sustainable rehabilitation is to be determined based on the site specific risk assessments conducted by an authority holder. This risk assessment should be used to not only establish a basis for managing risk when planning an activity, but it should also be used and updated (as required) to continuously evaluate risk and the effectiveness of controls used to prevent or minimise impacts. An authority holder may also be directed by the Resources Regulator to implement further measures, where it is considered that a risk assessment and associated controls are unlikely to result in effective rehabilitation outcomes.

Mine Safety

The Mine Safety Inspectorate within the Resources Regulator is responsible for ensuring the mine operator's compliance with the Work Health and Safety (WHS) legislation, in particular, the effective management of risks associated with the principal hazards specified in the Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Regulation 2014. The Subsidence Engineering team within the Mine Safety Inspectorate will undertake assessments of the mine operators' proposed mining activities under clause 33 of the Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Regulation 2014 as well as necessary regulatory actions in response to any identified non-compliances. The Resource Regulator reserves the right to communicate with you in regards significant WHS matters.

The Resources Regulator requests a review of the draft development consent conditions prior to finalisation and any granting of development consent. Specifically, ensuring that rehabilitation obligations as outlined in the Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Strategy (SLR 2014) that was prepared for the 2014 Environmental Impact Statement are applied to the Project.

For enquiries regarding this matter please contact me on 1300 814 609 or nswresourcesregulator@service-now.com

Yours sincerely

Matthew Newton
Principal Inspector Environment & Rehabilitation Operations
NSW Resources Regulator

23 April 2020