



Our reference: DOC21/1110603
Contact: Emma Jones (02) 6883 5909

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Returned via the Major Projects Portal

Attention: Ms Rose-Anne Hawkeswood

16 December 2021

Dear Ms Hawkeswood

**Planning Referral – CMOC Mining Services Northparkes Mine
State Significant Development SSD Modifications - MP11_0060-Mod-6**

Thank you for the invitation from the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) sent to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) on 3 December 2021 seeking comment on CMOC Mining Pty Limited (Proponent) Modification Report for the Northparkes Mine Modification 6 MP11_0060-Mod-6 (Modification 6)

The EPA has reviewed the Modification Report titled “Northparkes Mine Modification 6, E22 Portal, TSF2 Buttressing and E31 Precinct Modification Report and Attachments” (Modification report 6) for the Northparkes Mine prepared by Umwelt on behalf of the Proponent dated November 2021 and understands that the Modification 6 relates to the following:

- construction and use of a new underground portal access.
- embankment buttressing of Tailings Storage Facility 2 (TSF2).
- changes to TSF construction within the approved disturbance footprint associated with increased safety requirements for TSFs since first approved.
- minor changes to the E31 and E31N open cut pits to reflect updated geological data and improved resource recovery.
- establishment of temporary waste rock stockpile areas for the E31 and E31N pits.
- additional detail regarding the approved methods and locations of rehabilitation material (soils and vegetation) stockpiling.
- establishment of additional clay and filter material borrow pits for TSF construction and lifts.
- relocation of existing Contractor area facilities (eg site offices, crib huts and a workshop) which will also service the E31 and E31 mining operations.
- relocation of the main water supply pipeline and Rosedale (TSF3) tailings pipeline and;
- clarification regarding approved disturbance boundaries and the location of ancillary infrastructure within the E31 Precinct.

Phone 131 555
Phone +61 2 6883 5333

TTY 133 677
ABN 43 692 285 758

PO Box 2111
DUBBO NSW 2830
Australia

L1, 48-52 Wingewarra Street **info@epa.nsw.gov.au**
DUBBO NSW 2830 **www.epa.nsw.gov.au**
Australia

The Northparkes Mine is subject to Environment Protection Licence 4784 (Licence) issued by the EPA under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (POEO Act) for the scheduled activities of Mining for minerals and crushing, Grinding and separating.

The EPA has reviewed the Modification Report and accompanying attachments and provides its recommended conditions of approval below. The EPA notes that the Proposal may require a variation to the Licence to account for the proposed changes if the Proposal is approved. If approved, the Proponent will need to apply separately to the EPA to vary the licence.

Recommended Conditions of Approval

Air Quality

The Modification Report's Air Quality Impact Assessment (AQIA) presents an emissions inventory for the Proposal and compares Total Solid Particle (TSP) emissions being 8% lower than the annual TSP emissions quantified and modelled by SKM (2013). The annual PM10 and PM2.5 totals for the Proposed Modification are 3% lower and 19% higher than the totals estimated by SKM (2013) for approved operations. This is due to the approved E26, E28 and E28N open cut pits not being mined concurrently with the E31 and E31N open cut pits. Hence, there is an expected reduction in overall emissions.

Therefore, the EPA recommends that the following be included as a condition of approval:

- *Prior to the commencement of earthwork construction a Trigger Action Response Plan for dust management must be prepared by the proponent. The plan should include but not be limited to:*
 - a. *Define dust triggers levels;*
 - b. *Locations of dust monitoring equipment;*
 - c. *Monitoring program; and*
 - d. *Proposed dust management control measures.*

Surface Water

The EPA notes that the proposed changes to surface water management have the potential to change the volume of clean, dirty and contaminated water required to be managed by the surface water management system. Appendix H refers to the existing surface water management structures within the site footprint but does not address potential sediment and erosion issues created by the stockpiling of material in laydown areas or vehicle movements during construction.

Therefore, the EPA recommends that the following be included as a condition of approval:

- *Prior to the commencement of the proposal, the proponent must develop an erosion and sediment control plan specific to the proposed changes.*

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Emma Jones on 6883 5909 or by email epa.westopsregional@epa.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Simon Taylor
Acting Unit Head
Regulatory Operations Regional