



Scott Wolfenden
Environment and Community Coordinator
Bulga Coal Management Pty Ltd - Glencore

25/02/2022

Dear Mr Wolfenden

**Bulga Optimisation Project (SSD-4960) & Bulga Underground (DA 376-8-2003)
Sigma Theta Method - Assessing Noise Compliance**

I refer to your correspondence seeking the Planning Secretary's approval to use the Sigma Theta Method for assessing noise compliance in accordance with condition 23 (b) of Schedule 3 of the development consent for the Bulga Optimisation Project (SSD 4960) and condition 33 (b) of Schedule 4 of the development consent for the Bulga Underground (DA 376-8-2003).

The Department has carefully reviewed your request and understands that Bulga is required to ensure that a meteorological station capable of measuring meteorological conditions in accordance with relevant NSW policies is present on-site. The Department also understands that Bulga is required to determine the occurrence of different stability classes by using one of the following schemes:

1. Direct Measurement;
2. Pasquill – Gifford stability classification scheme and Turner scheme; or
3. Sigma Theta Method.

The Department notes that Bulga considers the first two methods listed are not reasonable as they would involve purchase and installation of additional specialised monitoring equipment which would incur significant additional costs to Bulga, while providing no material environmental or social benefit and arguably negative visual impacts to nearby residences.

The Department understands that Bulga has discussed this matter with the NSW Environment Protection Authority who confirmed it was satisfied that the Sigma Theta Method is an appropriate mechanism to determine the occurrence of different stability classes in accordance with both development consents.

Given the above, the Planning Secretary approves the use of the Sigma Theta Method in accordance with condition 23 (b) of Schedule 3 of SSD 4960 and condition 33 (b) of Schedule 4 of DA 376-8-2003, noting that Bulga has recently lodged two concurrent modification applications to amend the stability category inversion conditions listed in each consent to further align with this approach.

If you have any further enquiries in relation to this matter, please contact Tegan Cole on 02 9895 6457 or at Tegan.Cole@planning.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Stephen O'Donoghue
Director
Resource Assessments
As nominee of the Planning Secretary