



Your ref: SSI-70610456
Our ref: DOC24/417043-1

Ms Lauren Clear
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Submitted via Major Project Portal

31 May 2024

Dear Ms Clear

**EPA's Recommended Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements
Hunter Transmission Project – SSI-70610456**

I refer to your request for Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the proposed Hunter Transmission Project - SSI-70610456, received by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) on 15 May 2024.

The EPA understands the proposed Hunter Transmission Project (HTP) is a critical State significant infrastructure (CSSI) and in summary involves:

- a new overhead 500 kilovolt (kV) double circuit transmission line of around 100 kilometres
- 2 new substations (Bayswater and Olney)
- associated works, including upgrades to the existing Bayswater and Eraring substations, adjustments to existing transmission lines, road upgrades, access tracks, temporary construction facilities such as laydown areas, stringing sites, construction support sites and workers accommodation.

The EPA provided SEARs to you on 29 May 2024 (DOC24/417043), after further review of the information provided in Appendix K (Preliminary Site Investigation) the EPA requests the proponent undertake an adequate assessment of soils and contamination as related to the proposal. As such please see the additional information required in Attachment 1 and further Guidance Material in Attachment 2.

If you have any specific questions regarding this matter, please contact me on (02) 4908 6822 or via email at info@epa.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Gallagher', with a stylized flourish at the end.

KAREN GALLAGHER
Unit Head – Operations
Environment Protection Authority

Attachment 1

Additional EPA EIS Requirements – Hunter Transmission Project

Soils and Contamination

Describe baseline conditions

- Provide any details on soil types, properties and any potential soil contamination.

Assess impacts

- Identify any likely impacts resulting from the construction or operation of the proposal, including the likelihood of:
 - a. disturbing any existing contaminated soil
 - b. contamination of soil by operation of the activity
 - c. subsidence or instability
 - d. soil erosion
 - e. disturbing acid sulfate or potential acid sulfate soils.
- Reference should be made to the relevant guidelines provided in guidance materials. These include, but are not limited to, *Contaminated Land Guidelines – Consultants Reporting on Contaminated Land* (EPA, 2020); *Guidelines on the Duty to Report Contamination under the Contaminated Land Management Act 1997* (EPA, 2015).

Describe management and mitigation measures

- Describe and assess the effectiveness or adequacy of any soil management and mitigation measures during construction and operation of the proposal including:
 - a. erosion and sediment control measures
 - b. proposals for site remediation – see *Managing Land Contamination, Planning Guidelines SEPP 55 – Remediation of Land* (Department of Urban Affairs and Planning and Environment Protection Authority, 1998)
 - c. proposals for the management of these soils – see *Acid Sulfate Soil Manual* (Acid Sulfate Soil Advisory Committee 1998) and *Acid Sulfate Soils Assessment Guidelines* (Acid Sulfate Soil Advisory Committee 1998).

ATTACHMENT B: GUIDANCE MATERIAL

Please see the guidance materials below:

Acid sulphate soils	
Coastal acid sulfate soils guidance material	https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/acid-sulfate-soils-remediation-guidelines-for-coastal-floodplains-in-nsw and http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/mao/acidsulfatesoils.htm
Acid Sulfate Soils Planning Maps	https://datasets.seed.nsw.gov.au/dataset/acid-sulfate-soils-risk0196c
Contaminated Sites Assessment and Remediation	
State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021	https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/contaminated-land
Managing land contamination: Planning Guidelines – SEPP 55 Remediation of Land (1998)	http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/clm/planning.htm
Consultants Reporting on Contaminated Land (EPA, 2020)	https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/-/media/epa/corporate-site/resources/contaminated-land/20p2233-consultants-reporting-on-contaminated-land-guidelines.pdf
EPA contaminated land consultant certification policy (2022)	https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/-/media/epa/corporate-site/resources/contaminated-land/21p3245-contaminated-land-consultant-certification-policy.pdf
Guidelines for the NSW Site Auditor Scheme – 3rd edition (EPA, 2017)	https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/contaminated-land/site-auditor-scheme
Sampling Design Guidelines (EPA, 2022)	https://yoursay.epa.nsw.gov.au/sampling-design-guidelines
National Environment Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure 1999 (or update)	https://www.nepc.gov.au/nepms/assessment-site-contamination
Soils – general	

Managing land and soil	https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/land-and-soil/managing-land-and-soil
Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and construction	https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/managing-urban-stormwater-soils-and-construction-volume-1-4th-edition
Site Investigations for Urban Salinity (DLWC, 2002)	https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/site-investigations-for-urban-salinity
Local Government Salinity Initiative Booklets	https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/local-government-salinity-initiative-introduction-to-urban-salinity