



Our Ref. SF16/45240; DOC16/523195-01
Samantha Wynn, 02 6883 5333

Ms Rose-Anne Hawkeswood
Planner Resource Assessments
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Ms Hawkeswood

Thank you for your email to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) on 12 October 2016 seeking review and comment on the proposed modification application for the Santos NSW (Narrabri Power) Pty Ltd Wilga Park Power Station.

The EPA has reviewed the information relating to the proposed modification and notes that Santos are seeking to beneficially use gas generated from existing and future wells located within PEL 238 at the Wilga Park Power Station. This is proposed in accordance with recent amendments to the *Petroleum (Onshore) Regulation 2007* which supports beneficial use during the exploration and assessment phases.

The EPA notes that the proposed modification will not increase the already approved operating capacity of the power station beyond 40 megawatts. Given that noise, air and other environmental impacts associated with the operation of the power station have been addressed through the initial approval process, the EPA agrees that it is not necessary revisit these issues in the current process.

The modification application notes that minor piping modifications and operational preparations would need to be undertaken to allow the gas to be directed and used by the power station. The EPA's only comment specifically relating to the modification is to confirm that any construction work and operational activities occurring within the defined premises as outlined in Environment Protection Licence 20350 (EPL 20350) must comply with relevant licence conditions.

The EPA advise that a licence variation application and supporting spatial data files may need to be submitted to the EPA if the proposed pipeline modifications (the extent of which are not detailed in the modification application) extend beyond the Wilga Park Power Station (Lot 1 DP 1064422). If approved the EPA would welcome the opportunity to meet with Santos to assess the requirement to vary the EPL 20350 to reflect the modification. If a licence variation is determined to be required, it must be issued by the EPA prior to the commencement of works.

The EPA notes that the Wilga Park Power Station is currently operating below the 12 megawatt threshold. Should Santos wish to increase the operating capacity of the power station to greater than 30 megawatts, it will require a licence variation in accordance with Schedule 1 Section 17 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1979* for Electricity Generation.

If you have any questions, or wish to discuss the matter further please do not hesitate in contacting Samantha Wynn on 02 68835365 or by email samantha.wynn@epa.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Brett Nudd', with a stylized, flowing script.

25/10/16

BRETT NUDD
Manager North Coast Region
Environment Protection Authority