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Attention: Mandana Mazheri

9 June 2021

### **EPA Advice on Environmental Impact Statement**

Dear Ms Mazheri

Thank you for the request for advice from Public Authority Consultation (PAE-200009774), requesting the review by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) of the Modification Report for the proposed Mt Piper Ash Placement Project – Lamberts North Ash Repository Modification 1 (Application MP09\_0186-Mod-1) at Energy Australia's Mount Piper Power Station, 350 Boulder Road, Blackmans Flat, NSW, 2847.

The EPA has reviewed the following documents:

- Mt Piper Ash Placement Project – Lamberts North Ash Repository Modification 1 – Environmental Resources Australia Pty Ltd – 14 May 2021

The EPA understand the proposal is for:

- Staged installation of a liner within the currently approved LNAR;
- Placement of Brine Conditioned Ash (BCA) and Solid Mixed Salts and other authorised wastes from the surface of the liner (below RL 946m AHD) up to the existing maximum approved height of LNAR;
- Replacement of the currently approved LNAR Water Conditioned Ash (WCA) perimeter layer with a suitable capping liner;
- Staged installation of lined multipurpose storage ponds to manage the intercepted leachate from LNAR; and
- Minor amendments to the approved LNAR footprint, including excising the Western Coal Services infrastructure

Based on the information provided, the proposal is subject to an environment protection licence under sections 43, 47, and 55 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (POEO Act). Mt Piper currently hold an environment protection licence (EPL 13007) for electricity generation and chemical storage under Schedule 1 of the POEO Act. If the modification to the current consent is approved EPL 13007 would require variation under Section 58 of the POEO Act.

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The EPA has reviewed the Modification Report and has the following additional comments and recommendations:

## 1. Matters to be addressed with conditions

### a. Leachate Management System

The *Water Assessment* indicates that the leachate management system would be designed consistent with the *Environmental Guidelines, Solid Waste Landfills (EPA, 2016)* and no discharge to waters is proposed. However, the assessment provides limited details of some aspects of the leachate management system. For example, the assessment indicates that the size and layout of the leachate collection dam/s would be determined at detailed design stage. To address residual surface water pollution risks, the following condition of approval is recommended.

**Recommendation:** Prior to commencement of operation, the applicant must demonstrate that the design of the leachate management system is consistent with the *Environmental Guidelines, Solid Waste Landfills (EPA, 2016)*, including:

- The leachate barrier system, including liner and leachate collection system;
- The leachate storage dam/s including freeboard, appropriate sizing and liner; and
- Monitoring requirements

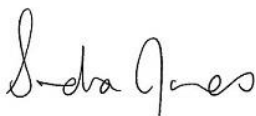
**Recommendation:** Prior to commencement of operation the applicant must demonstrate that the leachate collection system is appropriately sized and consistent with the site water balance modelling.

## 2. Additional Comments

The modification proposes '*minor amendments to the approved LNAR footprint, including excising the Western Coal Services washery infrastructure*'. The EPA does not support the excision of any portion of land, from within the currently approved footprint, which contains infrastructure crucial to the operation of the Mount Piper Power Station. The EPA would require further justification for the removal of any business-critical infrastructure from the approved premises.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Ms Lucy Apps on 6333 3800 or via email at [EPA.Southopsregional@epa.nsw.gov.au](mailto:EPA.Southopsregional@epa.nsw.gov.au)

Yours sincerely



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