

Your reference: MP11\_0092  
Our reference: DOC12/12484  
Contact: Mark Jansons  
9995 6829

Neville Osborne  
Department of Planning and Infrastructure  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001

Attention: Jahangir Alam

Dear Mr Osborne

**Re: Exhibition of the Environmental Assessment for the Sydney CityGrid Stage 2A**

I refer to your letter dated 28 February 2012 requesting comments and recommended conditions of approval on the environmental assessment of the above project.

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has reviewed the environmental assessment and has provided comments and recommendations in Attachment 1 relating to noise and air.

The EPA notes that the project includes excavation of an estimated 34,866 m<sup>3</sup> of material within an eight month period. In accordance with Schedule 1 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (POEO Act), an environment protection licence is required for 'extractive industries' which includes "the extract, processing or storage of more than 30,000 tonnes per year of extractive materials either for sale or reuse". It is therefore possible that an environment protection licence will be required for the excavation phase of the project. In any case, as the project is being undertaken by or on behalf of Ausgrid, in accordance with the POEO Act, the EPA is the appropriate regulatory authority for this project.

If you have any further questions please contact Mark Jansons on 9995 6829.

Yours Sincerely,

 3-4-12

**FRANK GAROFALOW**  
Manager Metropolitan Infrastructure  
Environment Protection Authority

## Attachment 1

### **Noise**

#### *Construction Noise*

The EPA notes that:

- Below ground works associated with the stub tunnel are proposed to occur 24 hours per day, with the truck loading limited to standard construction hours. There appears to be no readily apparent reason for any extensive out of hours construction activities, including tunnelling. However, given the predicted noise levels from tunnelling works do not exceed the groundborne noise objectives with mitigation in place (as described by the Construction Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment), the EPA is satisfied that the proposed activity will not result in adverse impacts on the community.
- Construction works such as excavation and construction of the substation and commercial premises are proposed to occur between 7 am and 7 pm Monday to Friday and 7 am to 5 pm Saturday. The EPA notes that these hours mirror those in the City of Sydney Code of Practice. The EPA generally recommends that construction works be limited to the hours of 7 am to 6 pm Monday to Friday and 8 am to 1 pm Saturday. Given that there are no residential premises in close proximity to the site, the EPA considers the proposed construction hours reasonable.
- Noise intensive works such as rock breaking are intended to occur between 7 am and 12 pm Monday to Saturday and 2 pm and 5 pm Monday to Friday. The EPA does not support a 7 am commencement time for noise intensive works.

The following conditions of project approval are recommended:

1. The proponent must prepare and implement a detailed Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan (CNVMP) that includes but is not necessarily limited to;

- (a) identification of the specific activities that will be carried out and associated noise sources at the premises,
- (b) identification of all potentially affected sensitive receiver premises,
- (c) quantification of the rating background noise level (RBL) for sensitive receivers, as part of the CNVMP, or as undertaken in the EA,
- (d) the construction noise, ground-borne noise and vibration objectives outlined in these conditions of approval,
- (e) assessment of potential noise, ground-borne noise and vibration levels from the proposed construction methods expected at sensitive receiver premises against the objectives identified in these conditions of approval,
- (f) where the objectives are predicted to be exceeded, an analysis of feasible and reasonable noise mitigation measures that can be implemented to reduce construction noise impacts,
- (g) description of management methods and procedures, and specific noise mitigation treatments that will be implemented to control noise and vibration during construction,
- (h) where the objectives cannot be met, additional measures including, but not necessarily limited to the following should be considered and implemented where practicable; reduced hours of construction, the provision of respite from noisy / vibration intensive activities, an acoustic enclosure over the excavation site, alternative excavation methods or other negotiated outcomes with the affected community,
- (i) where it is determined that the works cannot be undertaken in a manner that satisfies the construction noise and vibration objectives, a report justifying that the construction noise and vibration measures (including management measures) consistent with current best practice shall be submitted to the Director General for approval prior to commencement of works,
- (j) procedures for notifying residents of construction activities that are likely to effect their noise and vibration amenity,
- (k) measures to monitor noise performance and respond to complaints.

2. All construction work at the premises, other than below ground tunnelling works and noise intensive activities such as rock breaking, may be conducted between 7 am and 7 pm Monday to Friday and between 7 am and 5 pm Saturdays and at no time on Sundays and public holidays.

Below ground tunnelling works may be conducted 24 hours per day.

Noise intensive activities such as rock breaking must be conducted between 9 am and 12 pm Monday to Saturday and between 2 pm and 5 pm Monday to Friday and at no time on Sundays and public holidays.

Works outside these hours are not permitted except as explicitly specified below or in other conditions and include:

- (a) the delivery of materials which is required outside these hours as requested by Police or other authorities for safety reasons;
- (b) emergency work to avoid the loss of lives, damage to property and/or to prevent environmental harm;
- (c) other works approved under an environment protection licence or, where an environment protection licence is not required, by the Director General.

3. The Construction noise objective for the project is to manage noise from Construction activities (as measured by a LAeq(15minute) descriptor) so it does not exceed the background LA90 noise level by more than 10 dB(A) for works during standard construction hours; and by more than 5 dB(A) for works outside standard construction hours.

Background noise levels are those identified in the EA or otherwise identified in the Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan.

Any activities that have the potential for noise emissions that exceed the objective must be identified and managed in accordance with the Construction Noise and Vibration Management Sub Plan. The Proponent must implement all feasible and reasonable noise mitigation and management measures with the aim of achieving the Construction noise objective.

If the noise from a Construction activity is substantially tonal or impulsive in nature (as described in Chapter 4 of the NSW Industrial Noise Policy), 5dB (A) must be added to the measured Construction noise level when comparing the measured noise with the Construction noise objective.

4. Vibration caused by Construction and received at any sensitive receiver outside the proposal must be assessed against the guidelines contained in the DECC publication "Environmental Noise Management - Assessing Vibration: a technical guideline" and in accordance with the CNVMP.

5. Regenerated noise from construction works must not exceed the following criteria as measured at the nearest sensitive receptor:

- (a) 40 dB(A) between the hours of 6:00 pm and 10:00 pm; and
- (b) 35 dB(A) between the hours of 10:00 pm and 7:00 am.

In addition to the conditions above, the EPA suggests inclusion of conditions relating to "Construction Noise Management" such as conditions 31-35 in the; "Major Project Assessment: City West Cable Tunnel Director-General's Environmental Assessment Report Section 75I of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 January 2007" ([http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/asp/pdf/05\\_0178\\_dgreport.pdf](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/asp/pdf/05_0178_dgreport.pdf)).

## **Air**

The project has the potential to generate dust during construction due to the presence of exposed areas and through the use of plant on the site including concrete cutters. EPA recommends the addition of the following condition to mitigate impacts caused by dust.

### *Dust minimisation and prevention*

The proponent must ensure that construction work is carried on by such practicable means as may be necessary:

- (a) to minimise dust emissions on the premises, and
- (b) to prevent dust emissions from the premises.