NSW EPA

Your reference :
Our reference : SF18/4175; DOC18/211468
Contact : Ms Sheridan Ledger; (02) 6332 7608

Mr Anthony Ko
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

1 May 2018

Dear Mr Ko

ULAN COAL MINE – MODIFICATION 4 – LONGWALL OPTIMISATION PROJECT

I refer to your email of 9 April 2018 requesting the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) provide comment on the publicly exhibited Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Ulan Coal Mine Modification 4 – Longwall Optimisation Project (the Proposal).

As requested, the EPA has considered the EA for the Proposal in terms of the potential impact to air quality, noise emissions, surface water and waste management. The EPA's response is contained in Attachment A.

The EPA recommends the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) seek further information and clarification in respect of the matters raised in Attachment A prior to finalising its assessment of the potential impacts of the Proposal.

Should you have any further enquiries in relation to this matter please don't hesitate to contact me at the Central West (Bathurst) Office of the EPA by telephoning (02) 6332 7602.

Yours sincerely

DARRYL CLIFT
Head Regional Operations Central West
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ULAN COAL – MODIFICATION 4 – LONGWALL OPTIMISATION PROJECT
EPA COMMENT

The EPA understands that the modification proposes to lengthen panels 30, 31, 32, 33, W7 and W8 and widen longwall 33 to access an additional 6.4Mt ROM coal.

AIR

Potential air quality impacts from the Proposal are limited to dust due to vegetation clearing, heavy vehicles using access tracks during construction and drilling activities. No new ventilation shafts are proposed to be constructed.

The EPA considers that impacts can be mitigated adequately through the watering of access tracks and limiting the speed of vehicles. Use of dust control systems, with appropriate monitoring and maintenance will be necessary to control dust from drilling activities.

WATER

The EPA notes it is predicted that an additional 0.2 ML/day of water will be generated due to the Proposal. Currently the environment protection licence for Ulan Coal permits a daily discharge of 30 ML/day and Project Approval 08_0184 allows for a further discharge of 17.5 ML/day to be discharged into the Talbragar River. The EPA considers the predicted water surplus can be managed within the currently approved discharge capacity.

NOISE

The EPA considers that the NIA is adequate and has provided revised recommended noise conditions as detailed below.

Location of monitoring/discharge points and areas

Add the following Identification points to P1.4 in EPL 394:

EPA Identification Point	Type of monitoring point	Location description
36	Noise monitoring	Location R39 - Lot 12 DP 734934
37	Noise monitoring	Location R40 - Lot 11 DP 734934

Note: The locations referred to in the table above are identified in the plan titled 'Figure 3.1 – UCCO Project Predicted Noise Affected Residences' in the Noise Impact Assessment – Modification 4 to Project Approval 08_0184 – Longwall Optimisation Project (Umwelt, 4171\R01\V04, February 2018).

Limit Conditions

Add the following noise limit to L5.1 in EPL 394:

POINT 36, 37

Time period	Measurement parameter	Measurement frequency	Noise level dB(A)
Day	LAeq(15 minute)	-	41
Evening	LAeq(15 minute)	-	38
Night	LAeq(15 minute)	-	38
Night	LAmax (or LA1,1minute)	-	52

The EPA also recommends that:

a. The proponent should commit to implementing the modelled noise mitigation measures detailed in Section 5.1 of the NIA.

b. The proponent should also detail any alternatives to be implemented when the above measures are not feasible and reasonable.

Section 4.0 of the NIA shows that without noise mitigation measures in place, the modelled impacts at several surrounding residential receivers exceed the Project Noise Trigger Levels (PNTL). These impacts occur during daytime, evening and night-time periods and various activity phases. The predicted PNTL exceedances are sometimes significant (from 1 dB up to 15 dB).

To mitigate these impacts, the NIA proposes several measures:

- Erecting a temporary noise barrier around the drill rig at borehole locations. This barrier comprises a stack of standard shipping containers, 3 containers tall and 3 to 4 containers long. This barrier is to be situated approximately 10 to 15 metres from the drill (subject to available space);

- Not using the forklift at the drilling site during the night-time period; and

- Replacing the forklift reversing beeper with a broadband reversing alarm to reduce annoyance during the daytime period.

Noise modelling indicates that the above measures can reduce noise impacts significantly. With measures in place, predicted residual PNTL exceedances comprise a maximum of 1 dB at two receivers during the daytime, and 3 dB at two receivers during the evening and night-time. These occur under maximum construction activity and worst-case noise-enhancing meteorological condition scenarios.

The proponent should commit to implementing the above measures where possible, subject to available space. Where these are not possible, the proponent should put forward alternative measures or strategies and assess their effectiveness and any residual impacts.