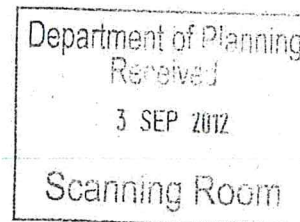




Our reference: FIL12/54;DOC12/32009
Contact: Michael Heinze 02 6229 7002



Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: Jahangir Alam

28 August 2012

Dear Mr Alam

Re: Exhibition of Environmental Assessment for Young to Wagga Wagga Looping Pipeline Stage 2 (Bethungra to Young) – MP 10_0163

I refer to correspondence received from the Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DoPI) dated 1 August 2012 to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) seeking written submissions on the Environmental Assessment (EA) for Stage 2 (Bethungra to Young) of the Young to Wagga Wagga looping gas pipeline.

The EPA has reviewed the information provided and does not raise any objections to Stage 2 of the proposed pipeline from Bethungra to Young. The EPA does however recommend that DoPI seeks amendments to the draft Statement of Commitments as identified in Attachment 'A'.

Attachment 'B' contains the EPA's assessment of the proposal, including justification for the amendments that DoPI may wish to consider in its overall assessment of the application.

The EPA has also recommends a condition relating to blasting limits (as detailed at Attachment 'C') be incorporated as part of any development consent that is issued for the proposal.

Based on the information submitted the proposed activity is not scheduled under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* and as such the proposed construction and installation of the looping pipeline is not considered to require an Environment Protection Licence be issued by the EPA.

Further, you may be aware that on 29 February 2012 the EPA became a separate statutory authority. As such, the EPA no longer administers legislation relating to the management and regulation of native vegetation, threatened species and Aboriginal cultural heritage. Responsibility for these matters now rests with the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH).

Accordingly, the EPA has referred your letter and accompanying information to OEH for its review and separate response in relation to these matters. The appropriate contact in OEH in regard to biodiversity, native vegetation and Aboriginal cultural heritage matters is Sandie Jones, Manager Landscapes and Aboriginal Heritage Protection. She can be contacted on (02) 6229 7066 or sandie.jones@environment.nsw.gov.au.

If you have any further enquiries about the EPA's response to this matter please contact Michael Heinze by telephoning 02 6229 7002.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Stefan Press'.

STEFAN PRESS
Acting Unit Head
Environment Protection Authority

ATTACHMENT 'A'

The following amendments to the draft Statement of Commitments (SOC) (Volume 1, section 17.2 of the EA) are recommended.

Water

It is recommended that at SOC titled "Surface and Groundwater" the following point should be added;

- Banks and floors of water courses that are open cut trenched will be immediately stabilised after the pipe has been laid and backfilled.

Noise and Vibration

It is recommended that at SOC titled "Noise and Vibration" the following point should be added;

- The proponent shall ensure that during any blasting event the airblast overpressure must not exceed 115dB (Linear Peak) and ground vibration peak particle velocity must not exceed 5 millimetres per second (peak particle velocity) when measured at the nearest residential premise.

ATTACHMENT 'B'

Air Quality

The assessment and mitigation of impacts on air quality are considered to be adequate. The main issue is dust amenity. The proponent has committed to undertaking measures to minimise any potential air quality impacts on local amenity.

Water

The assessment and mitigation of impacts on surface water are considered to be adequate.

Clean water diversion and contaminated water collection systems for the surface water are proposed along with rehabilitation of impacted water courses in the development area. It is recommended that the timing of the rehabilitation of the water courses is addressed.

Noise and Vibration

The assessment and mitigation of noise impacts was adequate and is consistent with the Interim Construction Noise Guideline (2009).

The movement of the pipeline construction focus at two kilometres per day is considered to minimise any potential impacts.

The greatest noise impacts are likely to be from blasting and it has been recommended that a commitment consistent with the Australian and New Zealand Environment Council (ANZEC) Technical Basis for Guidelines to Minimise Annoyance Due to Blasting Overpressure and Ground Vibration (1990) is put in place to ensure any impacts are reasonable. Noise from plant and vehicle movements appears to be acceptable and will be restricted by operating hours.

ATTACHMENT 'C'

We recommend that the following conditions are included on the development consent.

Blasting

- The overpressure level from blasting operations when measured at the nearest residential receiver must not exceed 115dB (Lin Peak). Error margins associated with any monitoring equipment used to measure this are not to be taken into account in determining whether or not the limit has been exceeded.
- Ground vibration peak particle velocity from the blasting operations when measured at the nearest residential receiver must not exceed 5mm/sec. Error margins associated with any monitoring equipment used to measure this are not to be taken into account in determining whether or not the limit has been exceeded.