

Paul Freeman - Objection to Stratford Mine Extension SSD 4966

From: "Pam Harrison" <pamhar01@tpg.com.au>
To: <information@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: Saturday, 19 January 2013 11:01 AM
Subject: Objection to Stratford Mine Extension SSD 4966

I have mailed a signed copy of the letter below to your postal address.

18 January 2013

Major Project Assessment,
Department of Planning and Infrastructure,
GPO Box 39,
Sydney NSW 2001

Re: Proposed Stratford Extension Project SSD 4966

I wish to register my objection to the proposed Stratford expansion project on the grounds of health issues and environmental impact.

Health

In perusing the project application no attention seems to have been made on adverse health impacts on the community. The section labelled "Health" only deals with a potential increase in health infrastructure requirement related to increased population, supposedly due to increased number of mine workers. It puts the obligation of supplying this on the public sector. The adverse affects of coal dust on both workers and community are well recognized, especially by the victims, but no reference is made to this.

In the section on "Air Quality" (page 4-66) it is noted that the **EPA does not have specific criteria for particulate matter of 2.5µm or less**. This suggests a serious disregard for public health as smaller particles are more likely to be inhaled and are potentially more damaging to the lungs. This has proved to be the case in exposure to asbestos.

I could not find any mention of intent to cover coal wagons on trains to reduce dust contamination. I am aware of a survey taken in the Hunter Valley in 2012 which did not show an increase in dust pollution, but that survey can be invalidated on the grounds that it was undertaken during an abnormally wet season, which itself had the effect of reducing pollution. The covering of wagons on existing coal trains is surely a logical and basic measure to reduce the risk of damage to the health of the community.

The adverse effect on the local people exposed to the mine and its expansion, both physical and mental, is a real issue and neither the mining industry nor the government (EPA) seem to have addressed these concerns. Just noting community concerns is not a solution unless honest and effective action is taken to address the problems.

Environment

There seems little purpose in pointing out all the defects in the Environmental Impact Statements as past experience shows that the EPA and Planning Department tend to ignore the submissions made by people affected by mining expansion.

One of the endangered species mentioned in the document can be found on my own property, and I am sure on others affected by the expansion. I note the offset area for endangered species lies immediately south of the proposed new expansion, directly in the path of future mine expansions, so not a long term solution to the survival of the species.

It is also shocking to imagine the landscape after these mining projects are finished, leaving gaping holes which represent the mass removed in the form of coal. This is shown on page 2-41:

Table 2-8
Indicative Project Final Voids

Final Void	Depth	Area
Roseville West Pit Extension	140	65
Avon North Open Cut	30	24
Stratford East Open Cut	180	49
	(m)	(ha)

I will not go into detail regarding the other concerns in the project as they are very obvious e.g., noise, water contamination and loss etc. etc. but would draw your attention to the fact that it is becoming obvious to all that our planet is warming, and that the burning of coal is the greatest contributor to this. It would make much more sense to encourage companies involved in alternative energy generation rather than greenhouse gas generation.

This mine is now owned by the Chinese and I would like to know how this will benefit Australians, apart from generating a few jobs. It is my prediction that the workers will have serious health problems in the future, probably after the mining companies have made their profits and left.

Yours sincerely

Pamela B Harrison MB, BS, Dip MT, FRCPA, FACHPM

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