

Your reference :
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Attn: Mr Anthony Ko

RE: WESTERN COAL SERVICES PROJECT (SSD 5579) MOD 2

I refer to your email notification on 15 September 2017 and request for advice on Western Coal Services Project (SSD 5579) MOD 2. The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) understands the proposal involves:

- revising the application of the existing noise criteria;
- increasing the amount of coal that can be received from Springvale Coal Mine from 4.5 Mtpa to up to 5.5 Mtpa with no increase to the approved total of 9.5 Mtpa from multiple sources; and
- establishing an additional coal stockpile at the Western Coal Services Site (WCS).

The EPA has reviewed the Statement of Environmental Effects (SEE) supporting the project application and provides the following comments.

Revised noise assessment

The EPA currently licences the Springvale Colliery under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (environment protection licence 3607) and that licence includes activities associated with Springvale Colliery, the overland conveyor, as well as the activities undertaken at the Western Coal Services site. Noise limits under environment protection licence 3607 will therefore need to address noise from all activities associated with operations of Centennial Coal at the Springvale Colliery, the overland conveyor and the WCS site.

As such, the EPA supports the modification, if approved, provided that Centennial Coal apply for and obtain a variation to environment protection licence 3607.

The EPA notes in the Statement of Environmental Effects (SEE) for Mod 2 that WCS is committed to further reducing noise from the coal preparation plant (CPP), dozers and loaders and that all acoustically significant noise sources within the WCS are proposed to be mitigated. The EPA also notes that WCS is also committed to reducing noise levels from the overland conveyor through the application of engineering controls and has investigated and implemented a wide range of noise controls for the conveyors and conveyor drives. Mitigation measures included in the noise modelling comprised:

- installation of low noise idlers on identified sections of conveyors;
- Installation of a barrier surrounding the western side of OL3 conveyor drive;
- Cladding the new 5Mtpa CPP;
- Upgrading cladding on the existing 2Mtpa CPP;
- Use of an attenuated dozer operating in the day period only;
- Use of an attenuated loader.

The SEE states that noise levels in the surrounding communities will be lower than current levels in the long term, with the implementation of these controls and other proposed strategies.

As the EPA will need to address noise from all activities under licence 3607, the EPA, in varying the licence may include a Pollution Reduction Program (PRP) to ensure all commitments made by Centennial to noise reduction goals are implemented. The EPA intends the scope of the PRP to formally document all noise reduction commitments and goals made in the SEE for the WCS premises as well as the overland conveyor. Once noise reduction works under the PRP are completed, it would be EPA's further intention to then add as limits on licence 3607 the reduced noise levels achieved.

Increase of coal received from Springvale Mine / Establishment of additional coal stockpile at WCS

With regards to the increase of coal received from Springvale Mine the EPA is aware the Springvale consent (SSD 5594 MOD 1) permits the production of 5.5 Mtpa, and the SCCS consent (SSD 5579) permits a maximum of 9.5 Mtpa. Therefore, the proposed increase in coal to be received at SCCS is in line with current approvals. The EPA supports the increase of coal received from Springvale Mine and the additional coal stockpile at WCS.

Should you have any further enquiries in relation to this matter please contact Mr Allan Adams at the Central West (Bathurst) Office of the EPA by telephoning (02) 6332 7610.

Yours sincerely



DARRYL CLIFT
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Environment Protection Authority