



Your reference :
Our reference : EF13/3625; SF; DOC17/35064-03
Contact : Mr Allan Adams; (02) 6332 7610

Tim Stuckey
Planning Officer
Resource Assessments – Planning Services
GPO Box 39
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24 February 2017

Dear Mr Stuckey

I refer to your email correspondence dated 23 January 2017 allowing the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to provide comments and advice on recommended conditions of consent for Modification 2 of the Springvale Extension Project (SSD 5594).

Centennial Springvale Pty Limited (Springvale Coal) is seeking to modify SSD 5594 (approved 21 September 2015) to amend Schedule 4 Condition 12 of SSD 5594 to;

- remove the condition to meet salinity limits for Electro-conductivity (EC) of 700 $\mu\text{S/cm}$ (50th percentile), EC 900 $\mu\text{S/cm}$ EC (90th percentile), and EC 1000 $\mu\text{S/cm}$ (100 percentile) by 30 June 2017, and
- to defer to 30 June 2019, the condition to eliminate acute and chronic toxicity (as defined in the consent condition) from LDP009 discharges to aquatic species by 30 June 2017.

The EPA is concerned about the delay in treatment options being implemented for the ongoing discharge, however, it is understood that Springvale Coal is working towards an improved environmental outcome by linking this project with the Water Treatment Project (SSD 7592). The EPA notes that as the Water Treatment Project (SSD 7592) is yet to be approved, and the construction duration for the water treatment plant was predicted to be 18 months as stated in Volume 1 of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the 2017 condition will not be met. While the proposed modification will delay the first stage of the treatment (2017 condition), the ultimate goal of achieving a salinity discharge limit of EC 500 $\mu\text{S/cm}$ (90th percentile) and eliminating toxicity impacts to the Cocks River from LDP009 by 30 June 2019 will remain in place.

The EPA recommended, and in December 2016 supported, an amended application to the Water Treatment Project (SSD 7592) to transfer all excess treated water from Mount Piper Power Station (MPPS) to Thompsons Creek Reservoir for Power Station reuse, rather than discharge to the Cocks River.

While the proposed modification will delay the first stage of the treatment (2017 condition), the 2019 condition requiring EC 500 $\mu\text{S/cm}$ (90th percentile) be met, and the reuse rather than discharge all treated water will ensure that a better long-term environmental outcome will be achieved. The EPA therefore accepts that the 2017 condition will not be met and supports the modification given that all treated water excess to the Power Stations needs will now be stored and reused under SSD 7592 rather than discharged to the Cocks River. In the interim, the EPA would support any additional measures Springvale Coal could put in place to improve discharge water quality.

The EPA has no other recommended conditions of consent with respect to SSD 5594 Modification 2. However the EPA considers it appropriate to include key milestones in any consent that DPE approves with respect to SSD 7592. Such milestones would provide certainty that Springvale Coal were working towards meeting their environmental responsibilities due at 30 June 2019. These milestones could include, designs being completed, tenders being let, construction and commissioning phases or similar. The EPA recommends that DPE seek timing and description of such milestones from the proponent and include these in any consent they decide to issue.

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
Head Central West Unit
Environment Protection Authority