



Your reference :
Our reference : EF13/3625; DOC16/377290-1
Contact : Mr Allan Adams; (02) 6332 7610

Ms Rose-Anne Hawkeswood
Resource Assessments – Planning Services
Department of Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

22 August 2016

Dear Ms Hawkeswood

I refer to your email correspondence dated 29 July 2016 inviting comment on the modification application for the Springvale Mine Extension Project (SSD 5594 MOD 1). The modification will involve an increase in coal production from 4.5 to 5.5 Mtpa; an increase in ROM coal stockpile capacity from 85,000 tonnes to 200,000 tonnes; and an increase in the mine's workforce from 310 to 450 full time equivalent workers.

The Springvale Mine (Springvale) is currently licensed by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) by Environment Protection Licence (EPL) 3607, the EPL permits Coal Works >2000000-5000000 T handled, and Mining for Coal >3500000-5000000 T produced. In the event the modification is approved Springvale will be required to submit a Licence Variation Application to the EPA for the increased activities.

The Statement of Environmental Effects (SEE) states that the proposed modification to consent does not result in an increase of inflow to underground operations and therefore there is no change to mine water discharge predicted to Sawyers Swamp Creek via LDP009. The EPA notes however that within Table 15 – Broad Brush Risk Assessment Results, increased mine water discharges at LDP009 to the Cocks River Catchment is identified as a potential impact. The EPA therefore requests that any ground and surface water impact assessments that identify an increase in mine water make and subsequent discharge from LDP009 (as noted in the discussion within Table 15), be provide to the EPA.

With regard to the expansion of the ROM coal stockpile; in September 2014 Springvale had an incident involving a discharge of coal fine sediment from the premises due to inadequate management of the existing ROM coal stockpile. Stockpiled coal had slumped and blocked drainage from the ROM pad causing coal fines to discharge into the clean water diversion and discharge off site. The EPA therefore requests that as part of the expansion to the ROM coal stockpile area, that appropriate measures are taken to ensure coal is not stockpiled in close proximity to the drainage system.

The EPA notes that in the SSE that as of 2016, sewage and grey water are now directed to the Council sewage system rather than treated on-site thereby eliminating any impact associated with an increased mine workforce.

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