



Your reference :
Our reference : EF13/2738; DOC15/112913-02
Contact : Mr Allan Adams; (02) 6332 7610

Elle Donnelley
Mining Projects
NSW Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

1 May 2015

Dear Ms Donnelley

I refer to your email to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) dated 31 March 2015 seeking EPA comment on the Cadia Valley Operations – Processing Rate Modification Environmental Assessment (EA). The modification is for an increase in the ore processing rate at Cadia Valley Operations (CVO) from 27 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) to 32 Mtpa.

Noise / air impacts

The EPA has reviewed the EA and notes the noise and air impacts to nearby receivers are predicted to be “negligible”, as the modification would result in a small increase in light vehicle trips during construction and the modification infrastructure would be limited to existing approved disturbance areas. The EPA is supportive of the commitment by Cadia Holdings Pty Limited (CHPL) to investigate noise and air quality mitigation measures during the implementation phases of the modification as stated in the EA. The EPA requests that the outcomes of the noise and air impact investigation are incorporated into the existing environmental management and monitoring measures.

Water management and tailings storage management

The EPA is currently monitoring the deposition of tailings into the Southern Tailings Storage Facility (STSF) following an incident involving the discharge of tailings from the dam spillway on 16 March 2015.

The EPA has reviewed the EA and notes that the existing CVO water management system would continue to meet demand for CVO and that sufficient capacity is available in the STSF to store the additional volumes of tailings as part of the increased processing rate. The EPA assessment of both the EA and CVO's response to the incident is that the STSF has sufficient storage capacity for the annual increase in tailings resulting from the increased ore processing rate. However CVO will need to ensure that management of the site water management system which includes ongoing management of sediment basins and the staging of TSF lifts to maintain the required freeboard is given the highest priority to ensure the system always has capacity for on-site containment of tailings.

Planning / licensing

The increase to the annual extraction tonnage to 32 Mtpa and associated increase in noise and air impacts will not require a variation to Environment Protection Licence 5590 (EPL 5590) as per Schedule 1 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Clift', written in a cursive style.

DARRYL CLIFT
Head Central West Unit
Environment Protection Authority