

DOC17/608144-05 ; EF15/21093

Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: Ms Megan Dawson

By email: megan.dawson@planning.nsw.gov.au

21 December 2017

Dear Ms Dawson

**Proposed Modification to Integra Underground Coal Mine
Modification 8 (MP 08_0101 MOD 8) – Longwall Extension
Environment Protection Authority Comments**

I refer to your email to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) received 6 December 2017, seeking comments in relation to the HV Coking Coal Pty Limited modification application for the Integra Underground Coal Mine. The modification is assessed in *Integra Underground Mine Longwall Extension Modification Environmental Assessment* prepared by Hansen Bailey for HV Coking Coal Pty Ltd and dated December 2017.

The modification is seeking to mine up to three additional longwall panels (LW 18-20); increase the lengths and widths of approved longwall panels LW 15-17; realign and extend the main headings and change ancillary surface infrastructure and water management.

Noise

The modification includes construction of surface infrastructure and a new access road that will last for up to 12 months.

The Environmental Assessment states that construction will generally be undertaken during standard hours and predicted noise levels are below the Noise Management Levels derived from the Interim Construction Noise Guideline. The EPA recommends that if the modification is approved, conditions are added to allow higher noise levels from the construction activities. The EPA has not recommended a specific noise limit for construction, but instead has recommended a condition that requires the proponent to implement feasible and reasonable mitigation to manage the construction noise.

The Integra Underground Noise Assessment states that the noise limits for any out of hours construction works will be within the operational noise limits in the current approval, and that operational noise levels will remain the same at the potentially most-affected receiver. The proponent is not requesting any change to the noise limits. If the modification is approved, there should be no change to the operational noise conditions.

Water Quality

The modification will involve additional dewatering boreholes. Dewatered groundwater, rainfall and runoff will be managed as part the Greater Ravensworth Area Water Sharing Scheme (GRWSS) or transferred to Rixs Creek Mine for re-use. 709MLpa will be extracted from underground workings due to the longwall extension.

The capacity of the GRWSS to manage this additional inflow has not been assessed as part of the environmental assessment for the modification. However, all premises linked with the GRWSS are either prohibited from polluting water, or, are allowed to discharge saline water only under the provisions of the Protection of the Environment Operations (Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme) Regulation 2002.

Sediment dams associated with the construction activities covered by the modification will be designed and constructed generally in accordance with relevant engineering guidelines including *Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction* (the Blue Book) (Landcom, 2004). The detailed design of each dam will be dependent on specific site conditions and the design life of the dam, but will typically be designed to manage inputs from the 95th percentile, 5-day storm event.

Condition 35 of the existing project approval requires that:

The proponent shall ensure that all surface water discharges from the site comply with the:

- *Discharge limits (both volume and quality) set for the projects in any EPL; or*
- *Relevant provisions of the POEO Act or Protection of the Environment Operations (Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme) Regulation 2002.*

The proponent holds Environment Protection Licence 3390, which does not authorise any surface water discharges from the premises. Condition 35 is therefore adequate to manage any likely additional impacts on water quality of the proposed modification.

Waste

The Environmental Assessment states that coarse reject material is expected to be co-disposed in overburden emplacement at Rix's Creek Mine. The EPA has recommended a condition requiring the proponent to ensure that it does not transport this material to a premises that is not legally permitted to receive this waste.

Air Quality

Additional gas drainage boreholes and increased flare usage will occur. Gas flares are regulated under environment protection licences through limit conditions. The EPA has recommended a condition to minimise the risk of air pollution from flare emissions.

Recommended Conditions of Approval

If the Department of Planning and Environment approves the proposed Modification to Integra Underground Mine for the extension of approved longwalls and changes to ancillary surface infrastructure, approval should be subject to the conditions below:

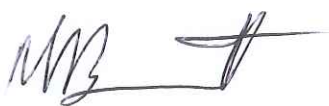
- The noise limits in Table 2 do not apply to the construction activities associated with Modification 8 during Standard Construction Hours (7 am to 6 pm, Monday to Friday; and 8 am to 1 pm on Saturdays) over the 12-month construction period;
- The proponent must minimise noise levels during the construction activities associated with Modification 8 by implementing best available techniques economically achievable.
- The proponent must monitor noise of the construction activities associated with Modification 8 at monthly intervals from the commencement of construction. Noise must be monitored by a

suitably qualified and experienced person. The applicant must reassess feasible and reasonable noise mitigation measures if monitored noise levels exceed levels predicted in the Integra Underground Noise Assessment.

- The proponent must complete the construction activities in the minimum time, not to exceed 12 months from the commencement of construction, unless otherwise approved by the Secretary.
- The proponent must operate each flare such that there is no visible emission other than for a total period of no more than 5 minutes in any 2 hours, except for heat haze.
- The proponent must ensure that coarse coal reject materials are only transported to premises that are lawfully able to receive them.

If you require any further information regarding this matter please contact Genevieve Lorang on (02) 4908 6809.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MB', followed by a horizontal line and a stylized flourish.

MITCHELL BENNETT
Head Strategic Programs Unit - Hunter
Environment Protection Authority

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