



Your reference: 08_0111 MOD 3
Our reference: DOC13/ 78131 EF/2570
Contact:
Electronic correspondence to: hunter.region@epa.nsw.gov.au

Mr Paul Freeman
Senior Planner
Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Freeman

AUSTAR COAL PROJECT MOD 3 (Ref 08_0111MOD 3)

Reference is made to your email to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) received 17th October 2013 requesting comments on the Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared in respect of the Austar Coal Project Modification (08_0111 MOD 3). Reference is also made to the EA prepared by Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited, also provided to the EPA on 17th October 2013.

The EPA has reviewed the EA and understands the proponent seeks to modify the existing underground mining activities as follows:

- extend the finishing positions of longwall panels A7, A8, A9 and A10 by 100, 300, 200, and 170 metres respectively.
- shorten the commencing end of LA 8

The EPA understands that the modification proposes no changes to the rate of coal extraction, life of the operation or any surface features.

Due to the relatively minor nature of the proposed changes and the likelihood that the changes will not directly alter existing noise, air and water impacts, the EPA does not have any specific comments or wish to recommend any conditions of approval for the proposed modification, as proposed.

Please note that this response does not cover biodiversity or Aboriginal heritage issues which are the responsibility of the Office of Environment and Heritage.

Please contact me on (02) 4908 6821 if you require any further information regarding this matter.

Yours sincerely

BILL GEORGE
A/Head Regional Operations Unit – Hunter
Environment Protection Authority

PO Box 488G Newcastle NSW 2300
Email: hunter.region@epa.nsw.gov.au
117 Bull Street, Newcastle West NSW 2302
Tel: (02) 4908 6800 Fax: (02) 4908 6810
ABN 43 692 285 758
www.epa.nsw.gov.au