



Our reference: DOC13/13833; LIC08/952-05  
Contact: Emma Paull (02) 4908 6828

24 APR 2013

Elle Donnelley  
Planner  
Mining & Industry Projects  
NSW Department of Planning & Infrastructure  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Ms Donnelley

**XSTRATA COAL PTY LIMITED – NARAMA WEST MODIFICATION (PA 09\_0176)**

Reference is made to your email dated 8 April 2013 to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) seeking comments and any recommended conditions of approval for the Narama West Project Modification ("the Project").

The EPA understands the modification application is pursuant to Section 75W of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979* and seeks approval for the recovery of approximately 2.7 Mt of ROM coal by open cut mining methods over a period of two years within the Narama West mining area. The Project includes an area of approximately 89 hectares within the footprint of an approved overburden emplacement area.

Mining will be undertaken by truck and shovel and/or dragline extraction with overburden being transferred to an existing overburden emplacement area.

All activities associated with the Project will be consistent with the currently approved operations and will not result in an increase in the life of the approved mine. It will increase the programmed production rate for approximately two years but production will remain within the approved maximum limit of 16Mtpa ROM coal.

The EPA has reviewed the information provided with the modification application and provides the following comment.

Air Quality

The proposed Project will occur concurrently with existing approved Narama activities. Given that site wide mining intensity is not proposed to increase, and mining machinery and infrastructure will be shared between the two pits, a proportional reduction in activity at the approved Narama site is expected. On this basis, it is unlikely that the air quality impacts from the Project will differ significantly from those predicted and observed from current mining activities at the Narama mine site - existing Project Approval 09-0176 (11 February, 2013).

Best practice management of fugitive particle emissions should be used to reduce the likelihood of off site impacts from the mining complex. As a minimum, this should include proactive and reactive management strategies, continuous real time monitoring and meteorological measurement and forecasting systems.

The EPA recommends the inclusion of the condition included in Attachment 1 in any conditions of approval.

Noise and Blasting

The EPA is satisfied that any noise and blasting impacts associated with the Project will be appropriately regulated through the existing Licence. The EPA recommends that the Department of Planning & Infrastructure seek a commitment from the proponent to comply with these requirements.

Water Quality and Management

The EPA is satisfied that any potential water quality and management issues will be appropriately regulated through the existing Licence.

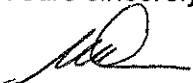
Additional Administrative Modifications

The EPA notes the proposal of additional administrative modifications to the current project approval and provides the following comment:

- a) Alteration to the approved operational boundary to include the Newdell substation.  
The EPA advises that, given the relevant land is already the subject of Environment Protection Licence 2652 ("the Licence"), the EPA has no objection to the proposed modification.
- b) Inclusion of additional commitments to the blast management plan requirements.  
The EPA advises that, as the proposed inclusions do not impact upon the blasting related requirements of the Licence, the EPA has no comment to the proposed modification.
- c) Changes to the Aboriginal grinding groove blast vibration criterion.  
The EPA advises that this proposal does not relate to matters for which the EPA performs a regulatory function.
- d) Removal of the specified approved Aboriginal archaeologist in the relevant PA conditions.  
The EPA advises that this proposal does not relate to matters for which the EPA performs a regulatory function.

Please contact Emma Paull on (02) 4908 6828 if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

 24.4.13

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

Encl: Attachment 1 – Recommended Conditions of Approval

### **Attachment 1 – Recommended Conditions of Approval**

- (a) By <xxxxx> the proponent must prepare an updated air quality management plan for the site. The plan must include the following information, as a minimum, for all dust generating activities at the site:
- Key performance indicator(s);
  - Monitoring method(s);
  - Location, frequency and duration of monitoring;
  - Record keeping;
  - Response mechanisms; and
  - Compliance reporting.
- (b) The air quality management plan must be submitted to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure for approval prior to the commencement of Narama West Modification activities at the site.

