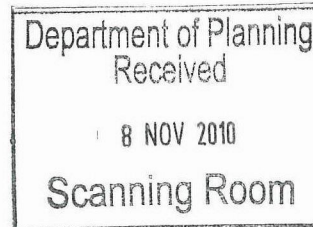


GW
Regional Services



3 November 2010

NSW Department of Planning
Major Infrastructure Assessment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY 2001



ATTN: Dinuka McKenzie

MT. PIPER POWER STATION ASH EMPLACEMENT EXTENSION (09_0186) – ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

I refer to the above Concept Approval application and thank the Department for the opportunity to comment on the proposal pertaining to the proposed Mt. Piper Power Station Ash Emplacement Area extensions.

Council has substantially examined the documents submitted and advises that it does not object to the principles involved in ash emplacement however concerns are raised pertaining to the following issues:

1. Cumulative Impacts of Industrial Development surrounding the locality of Blackmans Flat.

Council has previously advised the Department of concerns it has received from landowners within the Blackmans Flat locality indicating that they are 'forced' to live with heavy industrial development that now encapsulates the area. Given the proposal these concerns are evolving given the fact that two of the proposed emplacement areas are being proposed within the now finalised Lamberts Gully Open Cut Mine that currently should be undergoing rehabilitation.

Council has concerns, which were previously raised within its original comments that the cumulative impacts of heavy industrial development around the locality are not being substantially investigated as part of any Environmental Assessment.

2. Visual Amenity

Within the documentation provided the applicant seeks to increase the heights of the proposed ash emplacement areas to that which is currently being used at Mt Piper. Council has concerns over the current heights of existing areas and substantial visual impact these emplacement areas have from the Castlereagh Highway and believe that any increase to these current heights will continue to cause unacceptable visual impact. This can be quite easily seen with the Wallerawang Power Station Ash Emplacement Area from the Castlereagh Highway.

(02) 6354 9999
(02) 6351 4259

www.lithgow.nsw.gov.au
council@lithgow.nsw.gov.au

ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE
TO GENERAL MANAGER
PO BOX 19, LITHGOW NSW 2790

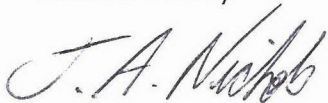
As part of any approval Council would like to see very definitive rehabilitation and landscaping conditions imposed on the development that could potentially mitigate the above concerns.

3. Transportation of Ash

Council advise that it has substantial concerns over the transportation of ash via truck, either on public or private road. It is requested that should the Department consider approval further information or substantial conditions be implemented indicating that other sources of transportation be investigated and no ash will be allowed to be transported by vehicle or truck.

Council again thanks the Department for the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment and advise to contact Gary Wallace in Council's Regional Services Division should you require any additional information in relation to this matter.

Yours faithfully

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

Jim Nichols
DEVELOPMENT MANAGER