



Your reference :
Our reference : SF18/73934; DOC19/233267
Contact : Joshua Loxley, 02 6883 5326

Executive Director
Planning Services
Department of Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW2001

ATTN: Phillipa Duncan

1 April 2019

Dear Sir/Madam

Aurelia Metals Hera Gold Project Nymagee SSD 4384 Modification 5

I refer to your email to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) dated 18 March 2019, seeking comment regarding modification 5 for the Hera Gold Project (SSD 4384) Nymagee (the premises).

As requested, the EPA has reviewed the Statement of Environmental Effects (SEE) and supporting information for the proposal dated March 2019 and provides recommend condition in attachment A.

The EPA understands that the proposed modification will comprise of the following activities and operations at the premises;

1. Increase the rate of transportation of concentrate from the Hera Mine to the Hermidale rail siding from 50 000t per calendar year to 60 000t per calendar year.
2. Install a water management dam to act as an external decant pond for the existing Tailings Storage Facility (TSF).
3. Receive water from the dewatering of the Nymagee Copper Mine for use in processing operations at the Hera Mine or evaporation within the proposed Water Management Dam.

If you have any questions, or wish to discuss this matter further please contact Mr Joshua Loxley at the EPA's Central West (Dubbo) office by telephoning 02 6883 5326 or by email at central.west@epa.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Duncan'.

SHERIDAN LEDGER
A/Unit Head Central West Region
Environment Protection Authority

Attachment A

Hera Mine – Modification 5 EPA comment and recommended conditions of consent

Air Quality

The EPA is concerned that the SEE does not adequately address management of air pollutants including dust. The EPA notes that premises currently has a HVAS (high volume air sampler) on the premises to provide real-time dust monitoring and a project specific Trigger Action plan for dust it to be developed.

Recommended conditions for the consent:

1. *Any activity in or on the premises must be carried out by such practicable means as to prevent or minimise the emission into the air of air pollutants (which includes dust).*
2. *Trucks entering and leaving the premises that are carrying loads of dust generating materials must have their loads covered at all times, except during loading and unloading.*
3. *Prior to the commencement of excavation of the Water Management Dam, a Trigger Action Response Plan for dust management must be prepared by the proponent. The plan should include but not limited to:*
 - a. *Define dust triggers levels;*
 - b. *Locations of dust monitoring equipment;*
 - c. *Monitoring program; and*
 - d. *Proposed dust management control measures.*

Surface Water

The EPA notes that the water management dam will be located within the existing footprint of the TSF. The SEE refers to the existing surface water management structures within the TSF footprint but does not address potential sediment and erosion issues created by the stockpiling of material in laydown areas or vehicle movements during construction.

Recommended condition of consent:

1. *Prior to the commencement of the proposal, the proponent must develop an erosion and sediment control plan specific to the Water Management Dam construction.*

Water Management Dam Construction

The EPA notes the proposed water management structures design, sizing and operating procedures are adequate to maintain containment requirements (1 in 100 year, 72-hour rainfall event) for the current and additional wastewater volumes.

The SEE states that the liner permeability of the proposed water management dam will be 1×10^{-9} m/s over 1m (or equivalent), which is adequate. If an "equivalent" liner permeability is proposed then this should be properly demonstrated to be equivalent to 1×10^{-9} m/s over 1m.

Recommend condition of consent

1. *Water management structures relating to SSD 4384 must be sized to designed to contain a 1 in 100 year, 72 hour rainfall event.*
2. *Prior to commencing construction of the Water Management Dam the applicant must provide in writing to EPA the type of material to be installed for the liner and demonstrate how the proposed liner is equivalent to the EPA's liner permeability requirement of 1×10^{-9} m/s over 1m.*
3. *The applicant must provide in writing to the EPA certification that the Water Management Dam liner has been installed and meets the permeability requirement of 1×10^{-9} m/s over 1m.*