

Lauren Evans
Team Leader
Energy Resource Assessment

Via: Major Projects Portal

Dear Ms Evans

Re. Mount Pleasant Optimisation Project (SSD-10418)

I refer to your request of 2 February 2021 for advice regarding the Mount Pleasant Optimisation Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Resources Regulator has reviewed the request.

Assessment

Based on the review of the EIS and supporting documents, the Resources Regulator advises that it has no specific comments regarding mine safety at this time.

In relation to mine rehabilitation and in consideration of our standard SEARs issued 20 January 2020 further information required is outlined in the table below.

1	In regard to the fines emplacement area the inclusion of the specific objective for the final land use is required. Rehabilitation objective should include a component that makes reference to the need to achieve long-term stability of the tailings facility in accordance with requirements specified by ANCOLD. Note: ANCOLD Guidelines on Tailings Dams (July 2019) provides design criteria for closure.
2	Information on the rehabilitation methodology of the Fines Emplacement Area is required. This should include information on the final capping design. Specifically, the source of the material for the cap to ensure the development consent covers the sourcing, transport and use of this material.
3	Inclusion of a schedule of rehabilitation and key assumptions for the rehabilitation schedule should be provided and not just referred to in another document (MOP).
4	Inclusion of a definitive final land use and rehabilitation objectives should be contained within the EIS.
5	Further definition of rehabilitation objectives, in particular the type of vegetation or target vegetation communities in the rehabilitated areas.
6	Further information is required on the conceptual final landform to show all final landform surface water management structures (including spillways) associated with the fines emplacement facility.

Limitations

It should be noted that the Resources Regulator does not provide any endorsement of the proposed rehabilitation methodologies presented in the documents provided. Under the conditions of a mining authorisation granted under the *Mining Act 1992*, the Resources Regulator requires the holder to adopt a risk-based approach to achieving the required rehabilitation outcomes.

The applicability of the controls to achieve effective and sustainable rehabilitation is to be determined based on site-specific risk assessments conducted by the authorisation holder. An authorisation holder may also be directed by the Resources Regulator to implement further risk control measures required to achieve effective rehabilitation outcomes during the life of the mine.

Regulatory requirements if approved

The proponent will be required to comply with rehabilitation requirements under the mining authorisations prior to the commencement of the works associated with the proposal.

The Resources Regulator may undertake assessments of the mine operators' proposed mining activities under the *Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Act 2013* and Regulation as well as other WHS regulatory obligations.

Background

The Mining Act Inspectorate within the Resources Regulator undertake risk-based compliance and enforcement activities in relation to obligations under the *Mining Act 1992*. This includes undertaking assessment and compliance activities in relation to mine rehabilitation activities and determination of security deposits.

The Mine Safety Inspectorate within the Resources Regulator is responsible for ensuring the mine operators' compliance with the Work Health and Safety (WHS) legislation, in particular the effective management of risks associated with the principal hazards as specified in the *Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Regulation 2014*.

Contact

Should you require any further information or clarification, please contact the Office of the Executive Director (ED.ResourcesRegulator@planning.nsw.gov.au)

Yours sincerely,



Alex Tutt-Branco
Executive Officer
Office of the Executive Director, Resources Regulator

25 February 2021