



Mr Christopher Armit
Environment and Community Coordinator
Great Southern Energy Pty Ltd
Mannering Colliery
Ruttleys Road
MANNERING PARK NSW 2259

20/08/2019

Energy and Resource Assessments
Planning and Assessment
Contact: Melissa Anderson
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Dear Mr Armit

**Mannering Colliery - Modification 5 (MP 06_0311)
Request for Additional Information - Noise**

I refer to your modification application for the Mannering Coal Mine (MP06_0311 Mod 5). After careful consideration, the Department is requesting that you provide additional information.

The Department has reviewed the documents submitted in support of the modification application and notes that there are several areas where more information is required for the Department to continue its assessment, please see **Attachment A**.

You are requested to provide the information, to the Department by Thursday 19 September 2019. If you are unable to provide the requested information within this timeframe, you are requested to advise of a timeframe for provision of this information.

If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Anderson, who can be contacted on 82751392 or melissa.anderson@planning.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely,

Howard Reed
Director Resource Assessments
Coal & Quarries Assessments

Enclosed: Attachment A

Attachment A

1. Sleep disturbance

Delta Coal states in the RTS (section 4.3 Page 26) and in the SEE (section 5.3.5 Page 39) that: *“the highest predicted L_{Amax} noise level (being the operation of the conveyor belt alarms) at any assessment location was L_{Amax} 47 dB at assessment location 8 under prevailing meteorological conditions and all results demonstrated that L_{Amax} noise levels were compliant with the relevant sleep disturbance criteria”*.

Delta Coal has concluded its compliance with sleep disturbance criteria based on a noise assessment conducted in 2015 for MC Mod 3. However, explanation of the calculation and comparison with criteria has not been well-explained in the MC Mod 5 SEE or RTS. The applicable noise policy to assess noise impacts is the *Industrial Noise Policy* (INP), however, the RTS in at least one place references the *Noise Policy for Industry’s* sleep disturbance criteria (section 4.3 Page 26).

In the SEE and RTS, Delta Coal has assessed sleep disturbance impacts purely from a technical perspective. Several submissions from residents at Macquarie Shores home village raised the issue of mental health impacts caused by sleep disturbance. The RTS does not satisfactorily address these residents’ concerns.

Delta Coal is requested to:

- a) **Please explain how sleep disturbance criteria applicable under the INP have been applied to the Mannering Mod 5 noise modelling.**
- b) **Sleep disturbance complaints from Macquarie Shores home village residents identify the 12 pm to 6 am period as being particularly sensitive. Please explain how Delta Coal proposes to mitigate and manage noise within this time period and reduce the frequency of intensive noise events which may disturb sleep.**
- c) **Please include a more detailed and considered discussion on the impacts of sleep disturbance on mental health and how Delta Coal will manage any potential impacts associated with predicted or actual sleep disturbance noise impacts.**

2. “Worst case” meteorological conditions

In the SEE and its Noise Impact Assessment (NIA), reference is made to modelling and noise predictions being undertaken under (eg) *“worst-case wind scenario which considered the highest potential noise levels at each assessment location”* (Section 5.3.1 Page 35) or that noise emissions are predicted to comply with the relevant long-term noise criteria *“at all assessment locations under worst case meteorological conditions”* (page 38).

Please provide clarification on the matters below:

- a) **Please provide a clear definition for “worst case” meteorological conditions, as described in the SEE and NIA**
- b) **Are the quoted “worst-case” meteorological conditions equivalent to the meteorological conditions set out in the Industrial Noise Policy and reflected in conditions of consent (Appendix 4A) and may therefore be described as “Applicable Meteorological Conditions” under Appendix 4A?**

- c) **Are noise emissions predicted to comply with relevant criteria under G class inversions?**

3. Reasonable and feasible noise mitigation measures

The RTS states (Table 3.1 Page 22 and section 4.3 Page 26), that Delta Coal would only implement further reasonable and feasible noise management and mitigation measures to address noise emissions if the Noise Compliance Report (NCR) identifies issues with the operation of coal handling equipment at Mannering Colliery.

The NCR is a separate requirement outside the direct scope of the modification assessment. However, Planning & Assessment understands that Delta Coal has recently been informed of non-compliance noise exceedances during attended noise monitoring undertaken for the NCR.

- a) **Please provide more detailed information on what reasonable and feasible noise mitigation measures are under consideration to reduce noise from the Colliery at the closest sensitive receivers, particularly Macquarie Shores home village.**