

DOC17/20272-03, File No. EF13/3519

Department of Planning and Environment
GPO BOX 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: Mr Thomas Watt (thomas.watt@planning.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Mr Watt

**RIX'S CREEK EXTENSION PROJECT SSD 6300
ADDENDUM RTS-MAIN REPORT-SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE**

I refer to your email dated 16 January 2017 in respect of Rix's Creek Extension Project SSD 6300 and the document titled "*Rix's Creek Continuation of Mining Project Response to Submissions Addendum*" dated 21 December 2016 prepared by AECOM ("Addendum RTS") and the Environment Protection Authority's ("EPA") letter to Department of Planning and Environment ("DPE") dated 25 January 2017.

The DPE requested clarification of the EPA's position on the air quality impact assessment and as such following receipt of the Addendum RTS, EPA advised in the letter dated 25 January 2017 that the additional information did not change the EPA's previous advice. To assist DPE in their assessment of the proposal the EPA further advises DPE that:

1. Assessment of potential impacts to the air environment has been conducted in general accordance with the EPA's guidelines. The EPA is not requesting further information or assessment.
2. The EPA sets an impact assessment criterion for 24-hour PM₁₀ that there be no additional days on which the cumulative 24-hour PM₁₀ concentration exceeds 50 µg/m³. (Cumulative is mine increment plus background concentration.) This differs from the criteria listed in DPE's Voluntary Land Acquisition and Mitigation Policy (VLAMP).
3. The assessment states that to evaluate potential exceedances of the EPA's 24-hour PM₁₀ criterion, impacts were assessed for a set of receptors chosen to surround the mine. Exceedances of the criterion were found for six of these -19, 61, 140, 151, 163, and 164. The EPA advises that other receptors close to these may also exceed the EPA's 24-hour PM₁₀ criterion.
4. The Addendum RTS states that in the year of greatest impact there would be no more than 5 additional days exceeding the EPA's 24-hour PM₁₀ criterion in Gowrie and McDougal's Hill. It further states that to determine the number of receptors potentially exceeding the EPA's 24-hour PM₁₀ criterion requires a large amount of work.

5. The Addendum to the Response to Submissions states that mine contribution to exceedances of the EPA's 24-hour PM₁₀ criterion were small, background concentration being a much larger contributor.

If you require any further information regarding this matter please contact Natasha Ryan on (02) 4908 6833.

Yours sincerely



NATASHA RYAN
Regional Operations Officer - Hunter
Environment Protection Authority

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