

FOSTERVILLE GOLD MINE - ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

17th October 2016

MINUTES

Tour Undertaken at 9.30am
Attendance: Jeff Cummins Lynley Strachan (GMW) Tim Harrington
Areas visited: Tour included the Standpipe Dam

Meeting Opened at: 10:00am	Minutes by: Trudi Jackson
Attendance: Chairman : Cr Rod Campbell (COGB) Nick Tuohey - EPA Ashley Elliot – Goldfields Revegetation Jeff Cummins – Community Representative Tim Harrington – Community Representative Ian Holland – Fosterville Gold Mine (FGM) Felicia Binks – FGM Trudi Jackson – FGM Erin Simpson - FGM Joseph Hughes- FGM Benny Asirvatham (EER) Lynley Strachan (GMW) Bob Disken (EER) Barrie Winzar – Community Representative Tegan Parsons - FGM	Apologies Alan Read Morgan James (COGB) Observers Alison Campbell

Meeting Commenced: Cr Rod Campbell commenced the meeting and welcomed everyone to the ERC Meeting. Cr Campbell welcomed the Community Representatives and reminded the meeting that representatives are volunteers who give their time to attend meetings and we appreciate their efforts. Cr Campbell reminded everyone that this ERC would be shortened in length due to the public meeting to be held after its conclusion and any longer issues should be taken offline.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Moved: Tim Harrington

Seconded: Jeff Cummins

OPERATIONS REPORT

(As per Operations Report issued to members)

Safety

As per the report

Ian Holland discussed the three injuries during the last quarter and mentioned the Mines Rescue Competition recently held at the Fosterville Gold Mine which included 8 competing teams with over 100 people in attendance.

Environment Report

As per report and presentation

Discussions

Discussion centred on the environmental incident at FWO3 Standpipe Dam. Felicia provided a presentation of where and how the incident occurred. Lynley explained that at the time the incident occurred GMW noted there was 16,000m/day of water passing through Barnadown and only 200m/day from Eppalock. Axe Creek had dropped down by that date.

Bob said as far as EER was concerned the dam wasn't supposed to overflow and an investigation was launched. Jeff said he understands we have had increased rainfall but Fosterville needs to look at design deficiencies. He also noted Fosterville promptly advised regulators of the incident. Bob said that EER will report back with its findings. Ian Holland added that the process was appropriate and we will have a review of the systems in place and an appropriate set of actions to follow.

Erin presented the results of site water monitoring as per the report. Lynley asked that given BGL43 may no longer be viable what is the depth of BGL61 which would be used as an alternative monitoring bore. Erin said that both were approximately 30m.

Air Quality

Jeff requested that the data that was not available in time for the report is made available at a later date.

Noise

Joe discussed the noise monitoring results as per the report.

Jeff asked if the day time noise breach was an isolated incident given it was not an abnormal activity. Joe responded by saying no but they have been looking into appropriate locations for the rock breaker to reduce noise. Bob asked given we have been provided consultants advise have all recommendations been put in place? Ian Holland responded by saying history shows that when the source noise is decreased the better the effect. He added that we are working in a systematic approach to address the recommendations. He highlighted that we are aiming for zero breaches and we have made a significant improvement from last winter. Felicia added that crusher panels would be looked at next and will need to be manufactured for removal and maintenance and this is something being budgeted for.

Benny mentioned that BIOX has been identified in most breaches and it would be a good time to look at this. Ian Holland said it is a focus of our activities. Bob then stated he recognised there has been a lot of work put into noise reduction but Fosterville is still having breaches. Benny then added there are no compliance actions currently but it can't just be ongoing. Ian Holland reiterated that we are aiming for zero breaches. Tim suggested that the rock breaker seems to always be operating in the mornings and perhaps 2 afternoon shifts would be more suitable, or better starting and finishing times.

Cr Campbell noted that a good exchange on the issue was occurring. Jeff said it was a credit to the company for employing a consultant but given the noise issues associated with this report we need to see some resolution. Ian then added that the consultant identified the sources of noise but not the solutions. We are working through the issues but need to be careful not to create new problems.

Community

As per the report and presentation

Discussions

Ian Holland made comment with regards to the community complaint and said whilst it was the result of personal action on a public road, the employees actions reflect on Fosterville. It has been communicated back through the crews that it is unacceptable. Lynley asked if a stop sign at the end of McCormicks Road might be appropriate. Rod advised that this would not be suitable. Bob added that it is a cultural thing that is not unique to the mine. Ian then said it is a behavioural issue and not contestable as to where it was from and hence why it has been included as a complaint for the mine.

Production Update

As per the report

Exploration

As per the report

Ian Holland highlighted that we have 9 drill rigs onsite with 7 of those underground. Tim asked if this was a record to which Ian responded yes.

Personnel

As per the report

Tim asked how many employees are on site during the day. Ian Holland said we have around 150 people during the day with less on weekends and night shift.

Rehabilitation Report

As per the report

OTHER BUSINESS

Air Quality Report

Jeff addressed the regulators regarding the air quality report and that he is awaiting a response on this. Benny said they had been in discussions with the EPA regarding dust and were happy with the report. He stated the dust limit had to be complied with but EER are not concerned with how this achieved, but it must be met. Nick Touhey mentioned that the Victorian guideline vagueness will be clarified. Jeff reiterated that the recommendations are in accordance with Victorian regulation and the report is based on legislation. There are two aspects to the dust and one is depositional dust which the company has taken up and the other is respirable dust and community health. Jeff continued by stating we expect the recommendations to be implemented and the company can't just implement the ones they like, they can't just pick and choose and if they don't do all recommendations then the regulators should enforce that they do.

Benny said that the regulators enforce compliance but it is up to the company to implement recommendations. Ian added the company has a clear response and we are not cherry picking. There are steps along the way and some involve regulator feedback. The company is not singling out concepts but we will follow a sequence of events to comply. Benny said at the next ERC we should discuss the recommendations. Jeff said he would prefer the company to be proactive.

Felicia mentioned that Joe did visit the Stawell site where they have a real time dust monitoring system. She said that there were issues of failure and the Ecotech consultant had stated that the system was not up to Australian Standards. Jeff concluded that he would like a detailed response from the company next time. Nick added that the Stawell system might just be a faulty machine and this is an important issue given we are moving into a dry summer. He also asked if the wind conditions at Fosterville are different to the Bendigo airport with regards to

weather data. Felicia responded that Fosterville is looking into wind recordings and working on this with site electricians.

Gunya Creek

Jeff said that after the last ERC he and Tim had a chat with the land owner and obtained some monitoring data. He said the landowner was not happy and believes the high readings are from the mine. He added it was important to involve the regulators with regards to sampling guidelines. Nick added that data from both the landholder and the mine has been looked at. Additional data from the landholder has been made available and will be looked at this week, He will report back at the next ERC meeting. Felicia mentioned that the relationship between the mine and the landholder was amicable. Tim also added that the paddock just above the area in question had some old yellow sands, previously treated, which may come up in results.

ERC Reform

Jeff asked the regulators about ERC reform. Benny said it was a long process and assured a complete review was being done. Feedback would be formalised and a project officer has been put on. He expects in the next quarter it will be complete.

Bob wanted to inform the ERC that after this reporting period another incident had been reported. Felicia explained there was a tear in the launder at Robins Hill and EER was notified. Sampling has been done and the launder was pumped out. Bob stated it was good reporting to the regulator but it won't be discussed until the next ERC meeting. Rod suggested perhaps an email in the interim should be sent out with regards to any incidents. Bob emphasised that it has been made clear that the number one priority for the minister is community engagement. Rod then added that this is clear for the company to understand.

Other

Given this was Rod's last ERC a few acknowledgements were made.

Rod said it had been a privilege and an honour to work as the chair of the ERC. The ERC works well and is honest and eloquent. Ian Holland thanked Rod for the respect he has shown to the committee and his acknowledged his ability to move things on and provide sincere guidance throughout. Bob also added that Rod has been an outstanding and tolerant chair during his time. Tim also added his thanks and made mention that one thing that was clear achievement during Rod time was the reestablishment of the Fosterville Axedale Road.

Action Plan

No	Action	Responsibility	When
1	Send out Report with up to date Hi Vol Dust results	FGM	Complete
2	FGM Response to Dust Audit Recommendations	FGM	Feb meeting

Meeting Closed: 11-15am

Next Meeting: TBA

Meeting Dates for 2017 will be set shortly