

FOSTERVILLE GOLD MINE - ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

1st May 2019

MINUTES

Tour Undertaken at 9.30am
Attendance: N/A
Areas visited: NA

Meeting Opened at: 11:00am	Minutes by: Trudi Jackson
Attendance: Clare Fountain - Chairperson Felicia Binks – FGM Trudi Jackson – FGM Will Wettenhall- FGM Jack Basseggio - FGM Ion Hann – FGM Nathan Phillips - FGM Frank Casimir - CoGB Cr James Williams – CoGB Lynley Strachan - GMW Ryan Straub– EPA Tim Harrington – Community Representative Jeff Cummins – Community Representative Barrie Winzar – Community Representative	Apologies Ashley Elliot – Goldfields Revegetation Paul Rutzou - ERR Bob Disken - ERR Observers Nil

Meeting Commenced

Clare Fountain commenced the meeting and welcomed everyone. Clare also thanked the Community Representatives who volunteer their time to attend the ERC and how their participation is appreciated. Clare then asked the committee if anyone would like to declare a new conflict of interest to add to the existing register. There was no response from the committee and no new conflicts of interest recorded.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Jeff referred to page two of the previous minutes regarding the Mining Licence Variation Update. The second paragraph should include that the planning scheme only allows mining subject to a planning permit.

Moved: James Williams

Seconded: Tim Harrington

Action Items

Historical Tailings

A submission has been made to DELWP and Heritage Victoria. Heritage Victoria has not indicated any issues. No feedback has been provided by DELWP and FGM will continue to pursue a response. Barry asked about the feedback from Heritage Victoria. Will advised the tailings were of historic significance and the guidance is not to

disturb but rehabilitate to minimise erosion. Felicia added that because it is crown land we require approval from DELWP with Will stating we need their written approval and choice of rehabilitation. Tim added he hopes we do not have to move historical tails in the future given how we are managing these ones as it sets a precedent. James said that the CoGB are trying to work with DELWP and Heritage Victoria around this as it is a long-standing issue that interferes with a lot of work and has a large cost.

Ventilation Upgrade

Felicia advised that this is still delayed. Ion explained that 290m of rods have been retrieved and we are currently looking to retrieve the last 10m.

Managed Aquifer Injection

Felicia advised that FGM are setting up meetings with GMW hydrologists to move forward with this project. The meetings are with the Ground and Water Streams unit. Jeff asked if this would be the way forward to open up a path to submit an application for a trial with ERR and it be a 6 month trial. Felicia responded by saying that permits to install the bores are already through and FGM will commence this work. James asked if the intention was to reinject the water. Felicia said yes it was and the bores would be used for monitoring. Jeff said he would welcome a reuse component to the trial.

DELWP

Felicia advised that direct contact has not been made but they are still receiving all the invitations, reports and information.

Noise Monitoring

Will presented schedule. Jeff asked who decides on the timing of the day monitoring. Will replied that there are no specified times but it must be in between the limit times. It is at the discretion of the monitoring technician except when there is a particular activity to be captured. Tim asked if regular monitoring is undertaken when the mill is shut down. Will said it was not a regular event but is undertaken on occasions. Tim then stated that FGM used to shut down the crusher on a Monday and asked if this still occurs. Felicia said it was now on a Wednesday morning but the noise monitoring technician was not aware of this so any monitoring completed at this time is random.

Tim also asked if the various mill stoppages are noted by the technician if he is monitoring at these times. Will responded by saying that if the technician is out they will generally make a note if they notice a distinct noise from the mill but not the other way around. Tim asked what reference is made to noise measurements taken on days when the mill is shut. Felicia said we don't reference now but we can as we know when the mill is shut.

Other Business

Tim - Intersection of Axedale Goornong Road

Barrier – Explanation of parking situation

Felicia – Sponsorship Information

Exploration Update

As per presentation delivered by Nathan Phillips

The exploration licence expired in late January 2019 and is currently in moratorium. The indication is that a decision may be made at the back half of the year. Jeff asked what would be the time frame you have to get your application in. Felicia said that this is yet to be determined. Jeff asked if the new EL's are subject to the moratorium. Nathan

advised that EL4937 dropped and FGM were able to successfully reapply so not all go into moratorium. Ion added it was generally based on interest. Felicia said the process may be similar to that of Stavely for this EL given the interest from bigger companies.

Mining Licence Update

Felicia provided an update on the progress stating FGM has held two town hall meetings and the licence extension has been approved. A meeting is also scheduled for Friday for a general discussion on the best path forward i.e. will an ESS amendment be required or will it require a planning permit through council. Jeff asked if it would be the intention to revisit the EES. Felicia said she was not sure. James added that council's view is that it should sit with the state.

Frank asked if Morgan for CoGB was involved in discussions with FGM to which Felicia said yes. Felicia also said that FGM had held 20 individual meetings with landholders. Jeff asked if these were with people who requested meetings and Felicia said yes.

OPERATIONS REPORT (as per Operations Report issued to members)

Safety

As per the report

Tim asked what was the reason for the AEM loop dropping. Ian explained that there is a safety mechanism on the loop that is designed to detach from the helicopter if required. The mechanism wore through on a protruding bolt and snapped. Tim asked where does the responsibility lie. Ion said both the contractor and FGM were responsible. FGM are the principle employee so we have the responsibility but we genuinely rely on the contractors for this specialised work.

Barrie said that the wellbeing program was very commendable. Ion said it is an investment to impact health and we get multiple returns from that investment.

Environment and Community Report

As per report and presentation

Discussion

Environmental Incidents

In relation to the spray drift incident Jeff asked if the curtains are effective normally. Felicia said yes and when they have failed previously we have noticed an effect on spray drift. James asked if it was FGM's intention to phase them out. Felicia said yes that was the long term plan and that areas will be turned into PAN's. Tim asked if they are on a daily inspection schedule. Felicia said yes they are. Jeff added that the sooner the Aster Plant is approved the better as this is a serial offender. Will said the Aster Plant notification is approved and it is now out for tender.

Water Spill

Jeff asked Ryan if the EPA was aware of the spill. Ryan said he did not know and he would take it on notice, he presumed that EPA was involved. Will then advised that James Courtman from the EPA was made aware.

Breather

Jeff said that FGM need to do a reality check on the risk matrix, to which Will agreed. Jeff added that class B water is often used in the community and for FGM these spills require reporting however the spray drift incident did not require reporting.

Jeff asked if FGM reports non compliances in regards to the dust exceedances. Will said we report these at the ERC. James asked if the pipeline has a life span. Will responded by saying that there is a regular maintenance plan in place. Tim said that he noticed that it is the different metal properties in the breathers that create the weak points and the pipe line is 15 years old.

Water Quality

As per report and presentation

In relation to the foot valves Jeff asked how many would be needed given FGM has ordered 20. Will said there are 4 that are known to need replacing and we don't see zinc in all the bores.

Tim raised the fact that the RSF1 area has a major tailing dam, 2 dams which hold water and 2 dams that leak and that the recent RC drilling encountered an aquifer. Will said GMW data is currently being reviewed by Golders. Tim also said he raised at the last meeting about the technician and the standards for sampling and he understands this is currently being raised. Lynley asked if the bores are PVC cased to which Will replied yes. Will also highlighted that BGL59 and BGL47 had increased As levels and in particular Golders has been asked to investigate the BGL59 site due to the sporadic results. Jeff asked if this was an old tailing area. Tim said it is 10 to 15m off the asphalt. Felicia added that it didn't seem like an old tailing area when it was drilled. She also said that FGM is not adding Mine Water to Daley's Hill Pit so don't think it will be influencing this. In relation to BGL47, this has generally been stable so it may be an anomalous result

Air Quality

As per report and presentation

Jeff asked for clarification that on the two occasions of noncompliance FGM is saying the samplers are not fit for purpose. Jack responded by saying that more investigation would be required. Jeff then stated that in appendix D there are 30 sampling events and 7 are above operating design and this calls into question fit for purpose PM 2.5 high volume samplers. He continued with why have the EPA asked FGM to measure 2.5. Continuous monitoring data would assist to understand the anomalies, FGM has declined to provide this data however it would assist. EPA don't use PM 2.5, they do use continuous monitoring. If we accept what hi-vol manufacturer specifications are we need to question the whole data set. Jeff added that we need to move to real time monitors, PM 2.5 does not make sense. FGM needs to look at the EPA website and what they are doing. The company may need to spend the money to improve the monitoring.

Lynley asked do you want to know what is being generated by the mine, Will said yes and that the position of the monitors try's to achieve this. Jeff added PM 2.5 AND PM 10 are a health issue and would like to see the company ramp up continuous monitoring. There is an issue with compliance for the company and that needs to be sorted. Tim asked if FGM are considering a consultant to get a second opinion. Felicia said yes. Jack then said we first need to ensure the units are working as specified.

Jeff continued stating that it is similar to the noise issues which he escalated and has since seen improvements. The company needs to do this again with the dust monitoring. Felicia said FGM are due to update the modelling and are working with the EPA and ERR presently. Jeff asked to carry over this item for update at the next ERC.

Noise

As per report and presentation

Community

As per the report and presentation

Tim mentioned the community meeting and the company's response to questions around why blasting is felt which seemed to be responded with an answer of this is not us. Felicia replied by saying this responses was in relation to some community suggestions that the blasts are causing cracking in the houses. The response was intended as the cracks are not attributable to us, but we don't suggest the blasting felt is not us. Tim responded by saying

that is how the community interpret the reply. Ion added that we are always looking for better ways to communicate information around blasting. Tim said the community need to be able to understand why and how they feel it. James agreed with this statement. Jeff then said due to the three complaints the company needs to consider community expectations around amenity issues and need to look beyond compliance. Felicia said we do make an offer for the company to attend a private residence so we can feel/experience what the landholders are experiencing. Lynley then added the drought will cause cracking and it's all about perception.

Production Update

As per the report

Personnel

As per the report

Exploration

As per the report

Rehabilitation Report

As per the report

OTHER BUSINESS

ERC – Draft Terms of Reference

Feedback is to be taken on notice and then a response provided.

Jeff said in general it was a good first start but suggested there was not enough emphasis on community views/expectations and their appeared to be a lot of scrutiny on community reps and perhaps there also needed to be more scrutiny on the regulators. Barrie agreed with Jeff regarding the regulators. Barrie would also like the reps to have more input overall. James said he liked the changes with an independent chair and that it should be compulsory for regulators to have someone in attendance. Tim endorsed Barrie and Jeff's comments and feels the reps role is difficult. It is difficult to communicate information back to the community if they are not interested. Tim also suggested a once a year tour be conducted with the regulators and council reps as often comments are made on these tours which are not minuted.

Lynley said she did not circulate the TOR but congratulated the company on what was presented. She said the contribution of the community reps was excellent and would like to see the company offer a reimbursement of costs to the reps. Will then asked about observers and if the committee would be open to this. He also added that there would need to be clear guidelines around observers. Ion asked if Will was referring to regulators. Felicia said the observers would be community members and that we have done this in the past. Jeff said he was all for transparency and he would be happy for them to come along. He added it would need to be mentioned that there was no interruption and that all feedback was to go through the ERC reps. Barrie then said they should not be adversary members and that may be where this has been a problem in the past.

Tim asked if the observers would be able to ask questions. Clare responded by saying observers must have very clear expectations of what is appropriate behaviours. Will then asked the community reps what tools or additional materials can FGM provide to communicate back to community and their roles effective. Felicia also raised the option to record the minutes. Clare said that under the recording act this would need to be added into the agenda.

As a final note Jeff said it would be good to get the draft TOR as a word document so people could edit and track changes and send back to the company.

Intersection of Axedale Goornong Road

Tim said that over the past two years he had been in discussions with council regarding the intersection. He added that the opportunity for a mishap is much greater given the volume of traffic. Simple signage on the Fosterville Road indicating cars are entering a 100km traffic zone would assist. People who turn onto the Axedale Goornong Road underestimate how quick the traffic comes up. We see near misses every day and soon something will happen.

James said signage and lines sit with council and that the company cannot do this. Clare said it will be acknowledged that the issue was raised and James will take it back to council. Tim said that people who use the road often have an increased exposure to the risk and that signage should be quick.

Barrie then referenced that more parking at FGM is needed and that he had come early to try and get a park. Felicia said the request for approval is in place but the holding point is DELWP. FGM needs to remove trees and this requires an offset and that is sitting with DELWP. Jeff asked about the location for the tree removal. Felicia said it is as you turn left from the current entry and that all the trees to be removed have been added to the offset documents. Barrie then suggested the use of the parking that was used for Open Day.

Felicia then informed the committee of the KLG initiative, which will see the company sponsor two scholarships for any discipline of study at LaTrobe University. One will be called the Barrie Winzar Bursary in recognition of his work in the education industry.

Jeff then asked for a letter to be sent as a formal acknowledgement of the ERC reps appointment.

Action Items

- Historical Tailings - Progress of rehabilitation or movement of tails
- Ventilation Upgrade – Update to ERC committee
- ERC Terms of Reference
- Hi Volume Dust – Monitoring Update

Meeting Closed 1-00pm

Next Meeting:

Wednesday 14th of August 2019