

**ABEL UNDERGROUND COAL MINE**  
**COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting #7**

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2009 at 5.00 pm**

**Abel Underground Mine Administration Building**

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**MINUTES**

1. **OPENING & WELCOME:** Chairman, The Hon. Milton Morris AO
2. **PRESENT:** Mr Milton Morris (Chairman), Mr Alan Brown, Mr Allan Jennings, Mr Brad Ure, Mr Terry Lewin, Mr Lachlan Crawford (Bloomfield), Mr Mark McPherson, Mr Matthew Blackham, Mr Tony Sutherland, Mr Adam Heeney and Mr Phillip Brown (mins).
3. **APOLOGIES:** Mr Andrew Pace and Mr Alick Osborne
4. **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**
  - 4.1 *Previous Minutes 30<sup>th</sup> March 2009 were confirmed by those members present.*
5. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:**
  - 5.1 *Business Arising.*
6. **CORRESPONDENCE:**  
Nil

7. **COMPANY REPORTS AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES:**

- 7.1 ***Development update***

- 7.1.1 ***Abel Program 2009***

Mr Matthew Blackham provided an update on the mine's progress including:

- Undertaking additional building works including another bathhouse; another office and training room.
- The workforce has increase with 31 new employees from Contractor LDO bringing the site total to 130 people. Looking at a total of 180 employees by December 2009.
- M Blackham and M McPherson detailed the Cleanskin Program that the company undertakes.
- Putting a new conveyor belt in on the weekend for the two new super sections that will be running until Christmas.

Mr A Jennings asked if the geological and water conditions that the min had encountered were as expected. Mr Blackham advised that there was a low depth of cover and that the rock had been much harder than originally thought. Mr M McPherson advised that there is a drill rig drilling across the area to firm up the information on the geology in the area as the coal wasn't thickening up as first thought. Mr McPherson advised that the coal quality is good.

- 7.2 ***Monitoring and Environmental Performance***

Mr P Brown presented a report on environmental monitoring. See attachments for presentation.

Mr A Jennings asked why the noise report had not been circulated. Mr Brown advised that he will attend to this.

- 7.3 ***Community Complaints and response to complaints***

Revision History					
Edition	Revision	Comment	Author	Date	Authorised by:
1	0	Draft Minutes	P Brown	29 July 2009	
		Adopted		28 September 2009	M Morris

Mr P Brown advised that there had been one complaint. Refer to presentation for details.

#### **7.4 Information provided to the Community and any feedback**

##### **7.4.1 Website Information**

Refer to presentation

Mr A Brown advised that the reporting of information being placed on the website has improved but that the timing still needs improving.

#### **7.5 Subsidence Management Plan Update**

Mr T Sutherland advised that the presentation from last week's subsidence management plan (SMP) meeting has been sent out and is also available on the website. Mr Sutherland also advised that there would be advertisements in the paper this weekend showing the mine subsidence area.

Mr M McPherson advised that Mr Colin East had suggested a public meeting to discuss the SMP process. Mr McPherson proposed to hold a meeting at a later date after the government reshuffle.

Mr T Lewin suggested holding a public meeting when the results have been obtained for the first works have been done to explain to the residents what the results are.

Mr B Ure asked if they would be doing first workings beneath the creek. Mr McPherson advised that they would be doing first workings until the Company can show that from the results that there would be no impact on the creek and would then undertake secondary extraction.

Mr T Lewin asked if the Catholic Diocese had indicated where the school would be. Mr McPherson said that a representative from the Catholic Diocese advised that they would not be constructing a school on the property.

### **8. COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS**

Mr T Lewin asked over what period the subsidence would occur. Mr T Sutherland advised that the main impact (95%) of the subsidence should be completed within 6 – 8 weeks of mining.

Mr Lewin commented that following a review of the SMP presentation that the power lines seem to be the biggest problem. Mr McPherson advised that powerlines are commonly mined under without problem. He said that the fibre optic cable would be the most difficult as it was just laid in the trench.

Mr A Jennings asked when the main headings are pulled out would there be further subsidence. Mr Sutherland advised that there wouldn't be due to the size of the remaining pillars.

### **9. GENERAL BUSINESS:**

- 9.1 Mr M McPherson advised the Committee of the proposal to install a downcast shaft on the southern side of John Renshaw Drive. Refer to the presentation enclosed for a plan showing the location. Mr McPherson advised that the Company would be submitting a Section 75W application for a modification to the original consent to the department of Planning. They would also include in the modification a proposal to install a further three headings under John Renshaw Drive.

Mr Lewin asked if there would be any noise associated with the shaft. Mr McPherson advised that there would not be any noise as it would be sucking air in and would not be located over a transport roadway.

Mr B Ure asked if it would be located over a transport road in the future. Mr McPherson advised that it would only be above an air roadway.

Mr A Jennings asked if the Company would be using existing tracks. Mr McPherson advised that they would. Mr Jennings also asked if access would be off John Renshaw Drive. Mr McPherson advised that access would be via Blackhill road and that the site would only be visited as part of regular inspections.

## **10. NEXT MEETING**

- 10.1 The next meeting of the Abel Community Consultative Committee was set down for Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2009 to be held at the Abel Underground Mine Administration Building at 5.00 pm.