

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING 18th OCTOBER 2011
Abel Underground Mine Administration Building

Present: Milton Morris (MM) – Chairman, Tony Sutherland (TS), Phil Brown (PB), Adam Heeney (AH), Josh Hunt (JH) – Resource Strategies, Alan Brown (AB), Allan Jennings (AJ)

Apologies: Brad Ure, Terry Lewin

Commenced: 1740 hrs

Finished: 1825 hrs

MM apologised for being late due to a diarised oversight. AB expressed disappointment that not all CCC representatives were present.

PB commenced with a Powerpoint presentation of proposed action and also amendments to their original proposal post the most recent concerns from the Community.

AB circumvented the details of the point presentation and suggested that discussion centre around specifically the decision to amend the MOP to include shortwall and longwall options. A slide depicting the lease footprint and the modified “potential mix of bord and pillar and shortwall mining areas” that excluded an area to the NW was displayed and TS commented that AB’s house is no longer in that zone. AB said that there were still 10 properties within the central nominated area plus some in the other nominated zones.

Much discussion was centred on the the fact that Donaldson will meet their consent conditions with regard to Schedule 4 of the Approval albeit that the Company’s Consultants are investigating some aspects that they may seek to amend.

Considerable time was spent discussing Mine Subsidence. TS and JH spoke about subsidence prediction being a more exact science than previous and suggested that there would be around the same subsidence from a shortwall operation compared to full pillar extraction. AJ and AB disagreed and were not convinced that this would be the case and argued that the Company had always presented at both Public Community sessions and at CCC meetings that the Abel Mine would be Bord and Pillar with Secondary Pillar extraction in allowed areas. AB again voiced disappointment that here, within only 4 years of the Approval for mining the Company was proposing an amendment to the mining method when at all public meetings and in the original documentation Donaldson representatives had categorically stated that “Longwall mining will not be used for this proposal”. AB added that it is an enormous impost on landowners to go through the review process of these proposals and object on grounds of presented data, especially when there is the potential for Government approval regardless of these objections – AB cited the recent DoP approval of the C&A application to mine Saddleback Ridge in contradiction to the original 2003 formal deed of agreement. AB reiterated previous comment that it would be beneficial if the Company made all information available to the Community now rather than at the Public Review stage to demonstrate “transparency”. AJ stated that the Company had not been transparent with their dealings with the Community and CCC members. He had been informed late 2010 that the then mine manager (M Blackham) had

visited Tasmania for the purpose of investigating a mini-wall. He had also had enquiries regarding purchase of property by Donaldson (This was rebuffed by PB).

To avoid rumours and misinformation, CCC members believe the Company has a responsibility to inform the CCC members of any events (eg land purchase) or proposed major changes in operations in advance, so this information can be disseminated to the Community in a timely fashion.

All participants expressed opinions (sometimes animated) on a variety of issues related to the Company's changed philosophy of mining method, the validity of the amendment, the process and potential impact on landowners plus Community reaction.

The Chairman asked the Company what they considered would be a "go forward" plan to inform the Community of these proposed amendments and the following options were suggested:

- Newsletter.
- Arrange for a Community meeting at the School.
- Information days set up at the Black Hill Primary School COLA and manned by Donaldson representatives so members of the community could drop in and discuss concerns "one on one".

It was considered that Option 1 + 2 or all of the above would be appropriate.

MM enquired if the proposed amended mine plan and preliminary subsidence predictions could be finalised in time for the next CCC Meeting scheduled for Monday 7th November – TS and JH considered that this would be possible. The purpose of this request being to present the information at the meeting, plus settle on the preferred Community presentation option(s).

AB requested PB distribute the Powerpoint presentation to all attendees plus the other CCC members and this was agreed.

MM thanked everyone for their participation and contributions and then closed the meeting.

The preceding records of events have been compiled by AB from his recollection of the statements made during the course of the meeting and from notes taken at the time and are meant to be a true and fair indication of the meeting discussion.



Alan Brown
19th October 2011