



NSW MINERALS COUNCIL
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AGENDA
NSW Minerals Council

UHMD Joint Working Group Emissions and Health Meeting

UHMD Resource Centre
Upstairs of the Town Square Shopping Centre
Suite 1, 159 John Street, Singleton NSW 2330

Wednesday 5 August 2015: 1.30pm-4.30pm

1. Welcome and apologies, new UHMD Resource Centre
2. Minutes of the meeting dated 7 May 2015
3. Establishment of the UHMD Joint Advisory Steering Committee
4. Weather Forecasting Reporting
5. Engagement of the resource and Updating of UHMD Communications Plan
6. Lower Hunter Dust Deposition Study - Interim Results
7. Other Air Quality Initiatives
8. Other Business

**Actions arising from meeting on 7 May 2015
UHMD Emissions and Health Working Group Meeting**

Action	Responsibility	Status
1. Welcome and Apologies		
2. Confirmation of Minutes of 6 November 2014		
3. Weather Forecasting Project		
On the next occasion there is a PM10 exceedence in Singleton or Muswellbrook, NSWMC will seek a volunteer to provide a qualitative case study from that day, which will be presented at the subsequent E&H JWG meeting	NSWMC	Refer to main agenda. There have been no PM10 exceedences since the last meeting.
4. Air Quality Information Session Feedback		
NSWMC to consult with communications team on utilising cinema advertising and schools as communications mechanisms and present back to the JWG	NSWMC	A new UHMD communications strategy is being drafted. Refer to main agenda.
5. December Workshop		
NSWMC to upload the 2011 study on depositional dust/drinking water onto the UHMD website	NSWMC	
NSWMC to invite Craig Dalton to the next JWG meeting	NSWMC	Craig is overseas but has indicated he is willing to attend another meeting.
Neville to generate document outlining E&H project concerns and direction		Neville provided a Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group document, which has been distributed with the Agenda to the Joint Working Group.
6. Other Air Quality Initiatives		
7. Other Business		

DRAFT MINUTES

NSW Minerals Council UHMD – Emissions & Health Joint Working Group

Singleton Visitor Information Centre, Singleton

Thursday 7 May 2015: 1.30pm – 4.10pm

Present

John Watson (Chair)

Wendy Bowman

Gerard Gleeson

John Hindmarsh

Julie Thomas

Neville Hodgkinson

Melinda Hale

John Drinan

Sarah Withell

Scott Brooks

Matt Parkinson

Harry Egan

Greg Sullivan

Andrew Rode

Brad Deane

Glencore

NSW Mine Watch

Rio Tinto - Coal & Allied Industries Ltd

The Bloomfield Group

Muswellbrook Coal

Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group

Singleton Council

Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group

BHP Billiton

NSW Department of Planning and Environment

AGL - Bayswater Power Station

Peabody Energy

NSW Minerals Council

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1. Welcome and Apologies

John Watson welcomed attendees to the Joint Working Group – Emissions and Health.

2. Confirmation of Minutes of 6 November 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 November were confirmed.

3. Weather Forecast Reporting

The working group have previously discussed the complexity of reporting on the use of forecast systems and supported reporting for the weather forecast project include:

- at the end of each quarter a report for each site on the number of occurrences of real time adverse weather conditions and a list of actions taken in response to those conditions.
- a qualitative assessment sought from volunteers when dusty conditions are forecast.

Gerard Gleeson presented a qualitative case study on Rio Tinto's use of forecast systems when adverse conditions were forecast for 5 March 2015. The working group noted that the case study presented was an excellent example demonstrating how forecast systems are used.

The working group discussed different options for presenting the quarterly report for each site on the number of occurrences of real time adverse weather conditions that were derived from the TARPs. The working group discussed that none of these provided any real value and an alternative should be considered on how to provide a 'numerical value' to complement the case studies.

The community members of the working group also discussed the original objectives of the weather forecast project and the need that these be demonstrated through the reporting.

The working group discussed using data from the UHAQMN as a way forward for providing a 'numerical value'. The working group saw value in using this, as providing the 24 hour PM10 level value:

- is a quantitative measurement of actual PM10 load; and
- case studies can be chosen from days when high PM10 levels exceed the 50µm benchmark, which then demonstrates how mines have taken measures to minimise these.

Utilising this approach will not result in a case study provided every quarter. Year to date there has only been once where the PM10 levels recorded (at both Singleton and Muswellbrook) exceeded the 50µm benchmark (on the 6 May 2015 Singleton 84.0µm and Muswellbrook 72.9µm)

It was agreed that Reporting for the weather forecast system will include:

- a qualitative measurement of PM10 from UHAQMN
- a case study from when PM10 levels exceed the 50µm benchmark

ACTION:

- on the next occasion there is a PM10 exceedance, a volunteer will be sought to provide a qualitative case study from that day, which will be presented at the subsequent Emissions and Health Joint Working Group meeting.

4. Air Quality Information Session Ideas

The working group discussed the community information sessions held on the 14 and 15 October in Muswellbrook and Singleton. It was noted that there was a low turn out to the sessions.

The working group discussed that the information sessions add value and are worth continuing but additional complimentary communications mechanisms should be considered.

The working group discussed ideas for further investigation:

- Cinema advertising - the working group discussed utilising a similar approach to that of Wyong Shire Council for its Estuaries management program where ads are played prior to movies at local cinemas <http://www.loveourlivinglakes.com.au/learn/see-and-learn/>
- Schools - the working group discussed developing a 5-10min script that can be delivered at local schools P&C meetings. It was suggested that links to information be provided, along with contacts and further information that can be put in school newsletters
- Site tours - the working group discussed the recent coal festival and the large uptake of site tours. It was discussed that utilising an approach like this could enable information to be provided on the bus.

ACTION:

- NSWMC to consult with communications team on utilising cinema advertising and schools as communications mechanisms and present back to the JWG.

5. December Workshop

The working group discussed uploading the 2011 study on depositional dust/drinking water onto the UHMD website and were generally supportive to do this. It was noted if there are concerns associated with the report to send them to NSWMC.

The working group discussed some of the work Craig Dalton has done around health impacts of particulates associated with coal mining in the Hunter Valley and it was suggested that Craig should be invited along to the next JWG meeting.

Neville provided an analysis of UHMD E&H projects over the last 4 years with the general theme that more is required regarding health impacts. It was discussed that Neville should document these concerns for further discussion.

ACTION:

- NSWMC to upload the 2011 study on depositional dust/drinking water onto the UHMD website
- NSWMC to invite Craig Dalton to the next JWG meeting
- Neville to generate document outlining project concerns

6. Other Air Quality Initiatives

The working group noted the updates on community notification, coal train dust and the release of NPI data.

7. Other Business

John Watson outlined that submissions for ACARP proposals close on 13 May 2015 and that if the community are looking for access to reports to contact him.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday 6 August 130pm-430pm at the Singleton Visitor Information Centre.

The meeting closed at 4.10pm.

NSW Minerals Council
UHMD Joint Working Group Emissions and Health Meeting – 5 August 2015

Agenda Item 3

ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT ADVISORY STEERING COMMITTEE

Issue

An Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue Joint Advisory Steering Committee (JASC) has been established, comprising three community representatives, three representatives industry and two from local government.

Background

The UHMD's Executive Oversight Committee wishes to deepen the engagement of the community with the Dialogue and build on the meaningful progress achieved so far. It is a strategic priority to have strong community representation and involvement on the JASC that guides the work of the Dialogue. By working together collaboratively, it is a strong belief of all involved in the Dialogue that the outcomes for all can and will be improved.

Expressions of interest were sought from members of the public interested in serving on the JASC via an advertisement published in the Singleton Argus and Muswellbrook Chronicle on Friday 17 July with nominations due by Monday 27 July. UHMD participants were alerted to the advertisement via a UHMD Newsletter.

The JASC will be comprised of nine representatives:

- Three (rotated) representatives from the eight mining companies represented on the ISC, including a Chair, who will be David O'Brien (Glencore). The other two industry representatives are yet to be confirmed.
- Three community representatives. Three nominations were received on time, who will be appointed subject to their signature of a code of conduct.
- Two representatives from local government (from both Singleton and Muswellbrook local councils - these have yet to be appointed).
- One representative from NSWMC to provide secretariat support.

The purpose of the JASC will be to:

- Shape through strategic advice the direction of the Dialogue, its purpose, outcomes and service to the community.
- Provide oversight of the activities of the Dialogue and insights on how to achieve the best outcomes.
- Ensure the Dialogue remains effective and valued by all stakeholders.
- Continually improve the Dialogue and its contribution to the community and industry.
- Promote awareness about the work of the Dialogue and strengthen confidence within the community that areas of importance are being well managed and taken seriously.

The first meeting of the JASC is likely to occur in mid to late August.

It is recommended that the Joint Working Groups and its members provide ongoing advice relating to Dialogue issues to the JASC by contacting its Chair or one of its representatives.

FOR INFORMATION

NSW Minerals Council
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Agenda Item 4

WEATHER FORECAST REPORTING

Issue

Quarterly reporting for the Weather Forecasting Project

Background

At the last Joint Working Group meeting, it was agreed that the best way to report on the weather forecasting project was to select a mine to provide a case study on how it responded on days when PM10 exceeded 50ug/m³ at Singleton and Muswellbrook since the last meeting:

On the next occasion there is a PM10 exceedence in Singleton or Muswellbrook, NSWMC will seek a volunteer to provide a qualitative case study from that day, which will be presented at the subsequent E&H JWG meeting

Since the last meeting, there have been no exceedances of the PM10 standard at Singleton and Muswellbrook.

The last time Singleton and Muswellbrook exceeded the 50ug/m³ standard was on 6 May 2015 - the day before the last meeting. On this day, all monitors across the Upper Hunter network exceeded 50ug/m³, as did most monitors across NSW. According to the Office of Environment and Heritage, the high particulate levels were caused by a dust storm in the Victorian Mallee and South West of NSW:
<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/media/OEHmedia15050602.htm>

For the working group's interest, the daily PM2.5 average advisory reporting standard of 25ug/m³ has been exceeded on three occasions this year, all in Muswellbrook during the winter months: 14 June; 21 July; 22 July.

FOR DISCUSSION

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Agenda Item 5

ENGAGEMENT OF THERESOURCE AND UPDATING OF UHMD COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

Issue

The UHMD Communications Plan is being reviewed and updated with a view to better promoting the project work of the Dialogue and making it more visible. Mr Shane Davey from *theresource* has been engaged to prepare and undertake many of the actions identified within the plan.

Background

In response to feedback received at the Annual UHMD Workshop in December 2014, the Executive Oversight Committee has decided to review the UHMD Communications Plan with a particular focus on better promoting the project work that the UHMD has undertaken and continues to undertake.

Mr Shane Davey from *theresource* was engaged to conduct a review of the existing UHMD Communications Plan and develop an updated plan for consideration by the Industry Steering Committee and the Joint Advisory Steering Committee. Mr Davey was specifically asked to provide ideas in areas:

- Cost effective ways to maximise the benefit that the industry obtains from its investment in the Dialogue.
- Options for proactively promoting the work of the Dialogue.
- Promoting and strengthening the UHMD brand within the Upper Hunter community.

Draft UHMD Communication Plan

An updated Communications Plan has been drafted and will be made available once finalised. The draft plan features an expanded range of communication activities which are divided into short and medium term initiatives. In addition the objectives of the plan have been more clearly articulated, together with a series of suggested performance measures.

The Emissions and Health Communications project will receive special consideration as part of the updated Communications Plan.

Recommendation

That the working group provide any specific feedback or suggestions to *theresource* in shaping an approach to communicating emissions and health information.

FOR DISCUSSION

NSW Minerals Council
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Agenda Item 6

LOWER HUNTER DUST DEPOSITION STUDY - INTERIM RESULTS

Issue

The NSW EPA has released interim results from the first six months of sampling from the Lower Hunter Dust Deposition Study.

Background

The interim report is available to download at the following link, and the Executive Summary is copied below: <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/resources/air/lower-hunter-dust-interim.pdf>

“The NSW Environment Protection Authority commissioned a study to investigate black dust deposition in the Lower Hunter Region to address community concerns. The study focuses on areas located along the rail corridor between Hexham and Port Waratah and involves 12 months of monitoring of dust deposition using 12 dust deposition gauges (DDGs) and random petri dish and brush sampling. The monitoring program began in October 2014 with this interim report providing a summary of the sampling undertaken between 15 October 2014 and 15 April 2015.

This report is an interim report detailing the first six months data of a 12 month monitoring program. This data is being released prior to the finalisation of the study to provide additional information of the study’s sampling methodologies and provide an indication of the format of the final report. No detailed analysis or consideration of meteorological variability was considered in this interim report with the findings of the study to be published in the final report in February 2016. No final conclusions have been derived from the first six months of data and the interim report should be considered in the context of the studies LHDDS Methodology Report.

DDG samples undergo a standard suite of analyses (insoluble solids, ash content and combustible material). Further analysis of a very limited number of selected samples is undertaken for more detailed identification purposes; these consist of stereomicroscopy, scanning electron microscopy, and energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy. At the time of preparation of this report, results of additional analyses had been received for 29 samples (11 brush samples, 6 DDG samples and 12 petri dish samples). General observations of the first six months of monitoring data suggest:

- *The six-month averages for dust deposition data collected from all twelve sites between October 2014 and April 2015 range from 0.7 g/m² .month to 1.4 g/m² .month. These values are well below the EPA criterion of 4 g/m² .month, which is as an annual average for an acceptable level of deposited dust, measured as insoluble solids.*
- *Soil or rock dust comprised the greatest proportion of the samples (average of 73 %; maximum of 95 %).*
- *Coal was detected in measurable amounts in 22 of the 29 samples, and comprised between 5 – 20 % of the samples (average of 6.2 %). Coal was not detected in one sample, and detected in trace amounts in the remaining six samples.*
- *Soot was detected in measurable amounts in 11 of the samples and comprised between 2 – 10 % of the samples (average of 2.1 %). Soot was found in trace amounts in all but three of the remaining samples.*
- *Black rubber dust was detected in measureable quantities in 3 of 29 samples, and in trace levels in a further 13 samples. Rubber averaged 0.7 % of each sample.*
- *Halite (rock salt)/salt was found in four of the brush samples in greater than trace amounts (comprising 5 – 10 % of the samples) and in six of the petri dish samples, where it formed 5 - 20 % of the samples. On average, Halite accounted for 3.6 % of each sample.*
- *Insect debris, plant debris and miscellaneous fibres were found in many of the samples.”*

FOR DISCUSSION

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Agenda Item 7

OTHER AIR QUALITY INITIATIVES

Issue

A range of other air quality policy and project developments of interest to the Joint Working Group are underway.

Background

Community Notification update

Last year NSWMC wrote to the (then) Environment Minister Rob Stokes on behalf of the UHMD, seeking an expansion of the air quality forecasts that are currently provided for the Sydney region to the Upper Hunter region.

To date a response has not been received. NSWMC will follow this up with the new Environment Minister, Mark Speakman.

In our discussions with OEHL, we understand that they are looking into expanding their air quality forecast system but specific plans for the Hunter are unclear and potentially several years away.

Coal Train Dust

Mine sites across NSW have been reviewing their loading practices and updating their management plans in response to industry commitments made, and EPA audits conducted, last year. Issues being targeted include procedures to avoid overfilling and spillage during loading, maintaining load profiling equipment and monitoring wagon door closure.

The EPA has been undertaking follow up inspections of audited sites. The follow up inspections are intended to ensure that sites are acting on areas of non-compliance identified during the audits.

National Air Quality Standards

Governments across Australia have been considering potential changes to the PM10 and PM2.5 national air quality standards, following public consultation on a range of proposals in 2014.

After the last meeting of environment ministers on 15 July 2015, the following agreed statement was released regarding discussions on the proposed changes:

Ministers signalled their in-principle support for varying the National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure to implement strengthened reporting standards for airborne fine particles, taking into account the latest scientific evidence of the health impacts of airborne particles. Ministers agreed in-principle to adopt reporting standards for annual average and 24-hour PM2.5 particles of 25 µg/m³ and 8µg/m³ respectively, with a move to 7µg/m³ and 20µg/m³ respectively over the longer term. Ministers agreed to finalise their consideration of the NEPM by 31 December 2015, including appropriate annual and 24-hour standards for PM10.

Lower Hunter Particle Characterisation Study

The results of the Lower Hunter Particle Characterisation Study will be released in 2016. 12 months of sampling was conducted between March 2014 to February 2015, with analysis of the samples now being completed.

Four monitoring sites are being used for the study: Newcastle, Beresfield, Mayfield, Stockton. PM2.5 is being sampled at all sites and PM10 is being sampled at Mayfield and Stockton, due to these two monitors' close proximity to Newcastle Port.

FOR INFORMATION