EnergyAustralia NSW

Mount Piper Power Station

Pollution Incident Response Management Plan (PIRMP)

EXTERNAL Version

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1. Introduction

1.1 Scope

This document is titled Pollution Incident Response Management Plan (PIRMP) and applies to EnergyAustralia's Mt Piper Power Station (EnergyAustralia NSW).

This PIRMP is applicable to all EnergyAustralia NSW workers, visitors and contractors at the Mount Piper Power Station site and associated premises. This is an external version of the PIRMP as described in Section 1.2.

The PIRMP shall be activated to ensure effective management of pollution incidents where there is a risk of actual or potential 'material harm' to the environment, as defined in the POEO Act and Section 1.5 of this PIRMP.

1.2 Objectives

This external web-based version of the PIRMP provides information on the site and facilities, identifies pollution incidents and describes communication processes during these pollution incident events. This includes the notification of authorities and communication with relevant stakeholders and community members.

This PIRMP has been prepared in accordance with the Environment Protection Authority's (EPA) guidelines and following legislative requirements:

- **Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 - Section 153C(a)**

  A pollution incident response management plan must be in the form required by the regulations and must include the following:

  (a) the procedures to be followed by the holder of the relevant environment protection licence, or the occupier of the relevant premises, in notifying a pollution incident to:

  (i) the owners or occupiers of premises in the vicinity of the premises to which the environment protection licence or the direction under section 153B relates, and

  (ii) the local authority for the area in which the premises to which the environment protection licence or the direction under section 153B relates are located and any area affected, or potentially affected, by the pollution, and

  (iii) any persons or authorities required to be notified by Part 5.7

  (b) a detailed description of the action to be taken, immediately after a pollution incident, by the holder of the environment protection licence

  (c) the procedures to be followed for co-ordinating, with the authorities or persons that have been notified, any action in combating the pollution caused by the incident

  (d) any other matter required by the regulation

- **Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Regulation 2022 – Clause 153D**

1. *A PIRM plan must be made readily available—*
    a. *to an authorised officer on request, and*
    b. *to a person who is responsible for implementing the PIRM plan at the premises—*
        i. *to which the relevant licence relates, or*
        ii. *where the activity takes place.*
2. *A PIRM plan must be made publicly available in the following way within 14 days after it is prepared—*
    a. *in a prominent position on a publicly accessible website of the person who is required to prepare the PIRM plan,*
    b. *if the person does not have a website—by providing a copy of the PIRM plan, without charge, to a person who makes a written request for a copy.*
3. *Subsection (2) applies only in relation to a part of a PIRM plan that includes the information required under—*
    a. *the Act, section 153C(a), and*
    b. *this Regulation, section 72(h) and (i) or 73(b)(ii) and (iii).*
4. *Personal information, within the meaning of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998, is not required to be included in a PIRM plan made available to a person other than an authorised officer.*

A copy of the full PIRMP is maintained at the premises to which the relevant licence relates and is readily available to the persons responsible for implementing the plan and to an authorised officer of the EPA on request. The PIRMP is a key component of the broader Emergency Planning documentation.

1.3 Mount Piper Power Station

EnergyAustralia's portfolio of generating assets includes the Mount Piper Power Station located in Central West NSW. Land surrounding this facility is primarily used to support power generation activities, providing the location for generators, cooling towers, coal conveyors, and coal storage as well as buffer lands to protect these facilities.

The buffer lands are maintained as remnant vegetation, or alternatively used for forestry plantations, grazing where local landowners agist their cattle.

There are several water storages located on EnergyAustralia NSW landholdings, with public access to these water bodies facilitated through lease arrangements with Lithgow City Council or agreements with Fisheries NSW to allow various water recreation activities.

The buffer areas act as a habitat for many local flora and fauna species with 23 threatened species recorded within EnergyAustralia NSW lands (17 fauna and 6 flora) according to state databases (NSW BioNET, 2020).

1.4 Document framework

Figure 1 outlines the relationship of the PIRMP to other EnergyAustralia NSW documents.

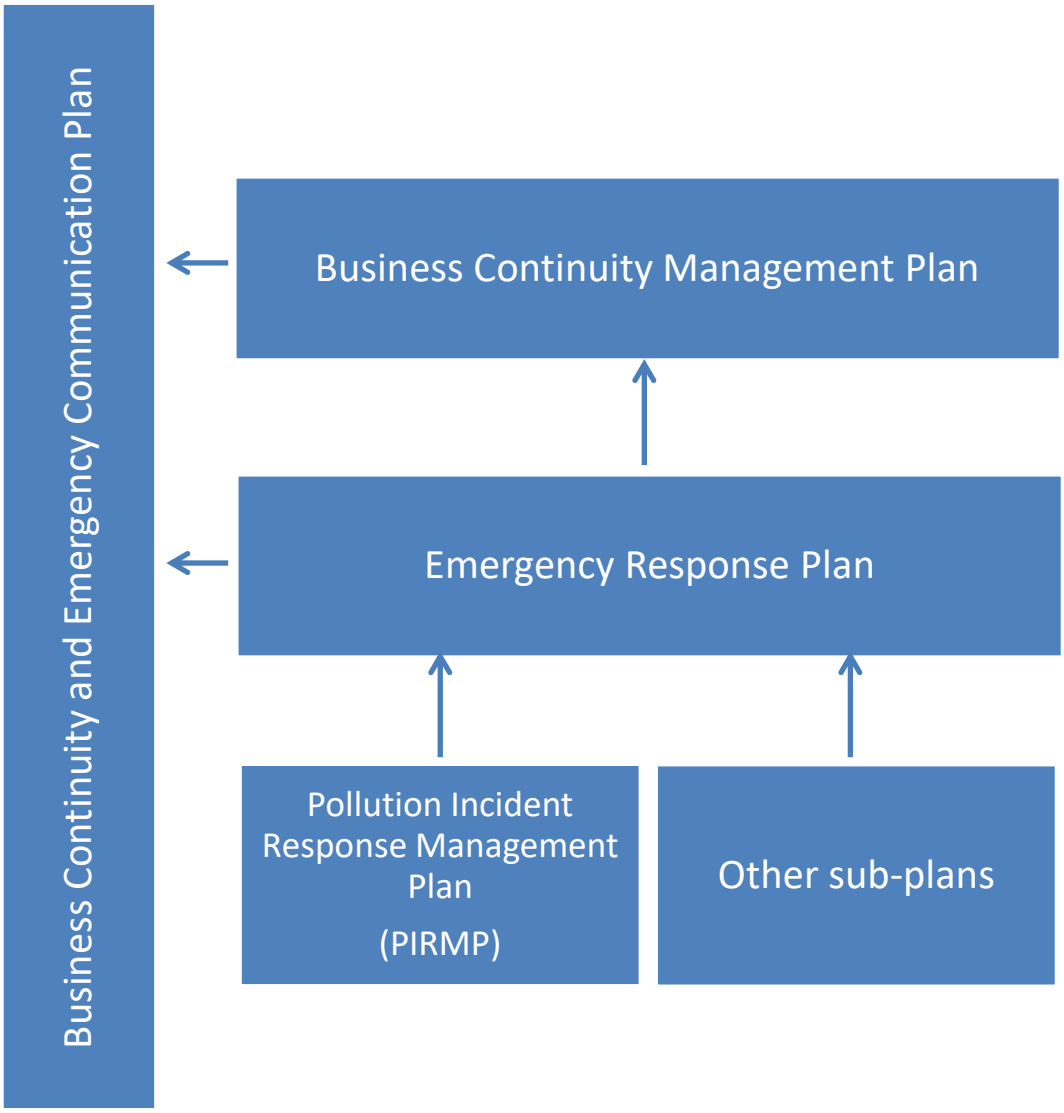


Figure 1 Document Framework

1.5 Pollution incident definition

A Pollution Incident means an incident or set of circumstances during or as a consequence of which there is or is likely to be a leak, spill or other escape or deposit of a substance, as a result of which pollution has occurred, is occurring, or is likely to occur.

It includes an incident or set of circumstances in which a substance has been placed or disposed of on premises, but it does not include an incident or set of circumstances involving only the emission of any noise.

A pollution incident is required to be notified and the PIRMP implemented if there is a risk of 'material harm to the environment', which is defined in Section 147 of the POEO Act:

(a) harm to the environment is material if:

> *(i) it involves actual or potential harm to the health or safety of human beings or to ecosystems that is not trivial, or*
>
> *(ii) it results in actual or potential loss or property damage of an amount, or amounts in aggregate, exceeding $50,000 (or such other amount as is prescribed by the regulations), and*

(b) loss includes the reasonable costs and expenses that would be incurred in taking all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent, mitigate or make good harm to the environment.

Notification is required even where 'harm to the environment is caused only in the premises where the pollution incident occurs' as specified in Section 147(2) of the POEO Act.

2. Pollution incident communications

The following section provides the contact details and requirements for EnergyAustralia NSW workers, Regulators and other stakeholders during a pollution incident. The section also details how, and under what circumstances neighbours will be advised of an incident.

2.1 Immediate notification of incident to relevant authorities

EnergyAustralia NSW is required to immediately notify the following regulatory authorities where a pollution incident has or is likely to occur with the risk of material harm to the environment:

- NSW EPA;
- NSW Health (local Public Health Unit);
- SafeWork NSW;
- Local Council; and
- Fire and Rescue NSW.

'Immediately' has its ordinary dictionary meaning of promptly and without delay.

The **Shift Leader or nominated delegate** is required to report all pollution incidents to the relevant authorities immediately after the incident is identified. An Incident Fact Sheet is maintained to document the agency notification.

The information required to be provided as part of the notification process includes:

a) the time, date, nature, duration and location of the incident,

b) the location of the place where pollution is occurring or is likely to occur,

c) the nature, the estimated quantity or volume and the concentration of any pollutants involved, if known,

d) the circumstances in which the incident occurred (including the cause of the incident, if known),

e) the action taken or proposed to be taken to deal with the incident and any resulting pollution or threatened pollution, if known,

f) other information prescribed by the regulations.

Lack of any of the above information should not prevent the Shift Leader or delegate from making an immediate notification.

As additional information becomes available, it should be communicated with all the relevant agencies immediately. The Incident Fact Sheet is updated as required and used to document any information updates made to the relevant agencies.

2.2 Contact details

Table 1 contain details of the key personnel within EnergyAustralia NSW (Mt Piper Power Station), and details of regulatory agencies and other stakeholders that require immediate notification in the event of a pollution incident.

Table 1 Mount Piper Incident Contact Details

Contact Name	24 hour - Contact Phone Number
EnergyAustralia NSW Shift Leader: Mt Piper Power Station	(02) 6354 8111
EnergyAustralia NSW Environment Leader	(02) 6354 8111
Head of Mt Piper	(02) 6354 8111
EnergyAustralia NSW Safety Leader	(02) 6354 8111
EPA Pollution Incident Hotline	131 555
NSW Health - Penrith Public Health Unit	(02) 4734 2022
SafeWork NSW	131 050
NSW Fire and Rescue	(02) 4902 3183
Lithgow City Council	(02) 6354 9999

2.3 Communicating with neighbours and the local community

EnergyAustralia NSW has developed a community database, DARZIN, for communicating with the community in the event of an incident which has the potential to affect neighbours or the local community. The database will also be used, where required, for general communication with neighbours and the local community.

EnergyAustralia NSW's principle in identifying neighbours is based around members of the community or businesses that:

- Adjoin EnergyAustralia NSW property boundaries;
- Have a direct line of sight to one of the power stations; and
- Sensitive receivers, such as schools, nursing homes etc.

The community database also includes members of the wider community from;

- Existing regional lists including stakeholder forums, local government, MP and media contacts;
- Names and addresses (opt-in) of neighbours gathered from invitation letter to adjoining neighbours; and
- Information gathered from public sources including schools, nursing homes, childcare centres, community centres, tourist destinations etc.

The database:

- Facilitates quick contact with large number of stakeholders either through email, SMS or phone;
- Provides one central location for storing up to date contact information;
- Allows tailored message and stakeholder segmentation; and
- Provides reports for analysis and documented evidence.

In the event of an incident, the following methods of communication are to be used to communicate with the local community:

2.3.1 Recorded voice announcement (mandatory)

A recorded voice announcement (RVA) will be placed on the RVA Community Information Hotline and public stakeholders notified via the DARZIN database. This enables local residents to receive information on the nature of the incident and any arrangements following an incident.

2.3.2 Optional communication modes

The following optional communication modes may be implemented:

- Updating web page;
- Newsletter drop; and
- Advertisements.

2.4 Information to be provided to the Community

Advice provided to the community will depend on the type and extent of the pollution incident. The following examples are provided as a guide:

- Uncontrolled emission of air pollutant (particulate matter) – Community advised through DARZIN and applicable media outlets to close windows and doors, turn off air conditioning equipment and stay indoors.
- Uncontrolled release of contaminated water into a waterway – Advise local community to avoid fishing in affected waterways, to restrain pets from entering affected waterways or utilising the waterway for recreation (e.g. swimming, skiing) until the waterway is deemed safe to use following sampling and monitoring.

Decisions to notify neighbours and the local community will be made in consultation with regulatory authorities based on an initial risk assessment (for example, considering the type of pollutant, concentration of emission, prevailing wind and height of the emission). The EnergyAustralia NSW Emergency Communicator will be responsible for co-ordinating the notification and update of information to neighbours, the local community and regulatory authorities.

Notification of the Community and Media is undertaken in accordance with the EnergyAustralia NSW Business Continuity and Emergency Communication Plan.