

## **Western Region Community Reference Group Meeting**

### **Meeting Notes 29 August 2012**

Present: Luke Welfare, General Manager, Western Region; Julia Harvey Corporate Relations Manager; Julie Favell, Rob Baigent, Jim Whitty. Apologies: Sue Graves, Alex Preema.

#### **1. Operations Update**

Mount Piper Outage will begin this week and Wallerawang Unit 8 will begin two weeks after Mount Piper outage is completed.

#### **2. Rail Unloader**

Truenergy (now Energy Australia) is undertaking an economic feasibility study on the rail unloader.

#### **3. Water Management**

All dams are full. Lake Lyell has stopped spilling today.

#### **4. Energy Reform**

Sales advisors Goldman Sachs have been appointed and a sales strategy is expected at the end of September 2012. Delta has focussed on finalising the community access leases in anticipation of the sale of state electricity assets to ensure the community legacy is in place.

#### **5. Anglers Access – Thompsons Creek Dam**

The access agreement is close to finalising.

#### **6. Wang RO Plant**

The Wallerawang RO Plant is working however its operations are limited until the Brine Concentrator at Mt Piper upgrade is completed. The brine concentrator upgrade with additional capacity should be completed by Christmas 2012.

#### **7. Emergency Communications – POEO Act**

Delta has implemented a number of new requirements from amendments to the POEO Act. This includes the development of a Pollution Incident Response Management Plan, available to the public on the Delta website, new ways of contacting our neighbours and stakeholders in the community, and the results of monitoring from Delta's Environment Protection Licences being available monthly on the website.

Delta has established a database in the Western Region and on the Central Coast of our neighbours and key stakeholders which will help us to notify people in case of incidents and emergency. Residents who may not have registered are still encouraged to do so – contact information is on the Delta website for registration. Residents are also reminded if they are concerned to call the Delta Incident Information Line on 1800 115 277 for recorded information on any incidents.

## **8. Environment Projects**

See presentation. Selenium levels in Lake Wallace have been dropping over recent years and environmental monitoring has shown good results. These reduced levels result from improved dry ash placement.

## **9. Process Improvements**

Delta has a new improved lock out procedures with new training programs. This safety process improvement means that more than one person needs to oversee the process. New hold and witness points are embedded in the new system to ensure safety of personnel and plant.

## **10. Environment Protection Licence updates.**

An update was provided on discussions with the EPA on licence changes. Last year Delta submitted a variation to the Delta's Wallerawang Licence with a plan to treat all blow down water by 2015 and to install fabric filter bags to ensure no visible emissions at the station. The EPA advertised the proposed changes and undertook community consultation. Revised conditions are being discussed, with the variations still to be finalised with EPA, but indications are that we are close to agreement.

Discussion took place on matters including Springvale water, RO plant capacities and whether reed beds were now required in tortuous water course, salinity levels between now and 2015. Luke Welfare confirmed that Delta was working with Springvale Mine and that the licenced discharge point had now been transferred to the Mine. Delta will lease our settling ponds back to them to manage turbidity. It was also confirmed that Delta will meet salinity levels. Delta need to balance total volumes and peak concentrations for salinity as well as the reliability of water supplies to make the licence meaningful.

## **11. Communications**

Julia Harvey presented on the changes to the website for the new Protection of the Environment Legislation requirement.

Julie Favell congratulated Delta and Julia on the new information, the presentation of the website and the transparency of the information presented. It is much appreciated.

## **12. General Business**

Notes from last meeting and issue updates were confirmed.

**Julie Favell** reported back on the Lithgow Environment Group's meeting with Coalpac. It was also suggested that new representation from the Local Aboriginal Land Council was sought. Luke Welfare advised this will be followed up.

**Rob Baigent** requested a brief update on the Wallerawang Filter Bag projects. Luke Welfare confirmed that an Owners Engineer had been appointed and that expressions of interest had been sought. Tenderers will be reduced down and the specifications refined. By the end of 2012 the tendering process will be finalised. By mid-2013 the contractor will in place. The process Delta wants a whole of life cycle proposition for the air filter bags.

Next meeting: 28 November 2012. Visit to Lamberts North Ash placement will take place at this meeting.