



Used Lead Acid Battery Community Liaison Committee Meeting

06.12.2023

7.00pm

Century Inn, Traralgon

Minutes

Topic

Host

<p>Welcome Committee Members and Visitors</p>	<p>Philip Reichert</p>
<p>Apologies Bronwyn Woodward, Leo Billington, Sue Timms, Samuel Armstrong, Cr Melissa Ferguson, Shane Mynard, Karl Baltpurvins</p>	<p>Philip Reichert</p>
<p>Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting Lorraine Bull</p>	<p>Philip Reichert</p>
<p>Progress Report - General Status & EPA Submission Update</p> <p>EPA Reports:</p> <p>Since the last meeting, Pure Environment, Chunxing China, TUV, and our 3 consultants Geoff Latimer, Darren Nelson, Alan Walcome have updated the original report provided to the EPA. We have now submitted 6 of 9 reports required for approval of construction. We are working diligently on the detailed process design including the pollution control system.</p> <p>Printed out for this meeting, and on the meeting invite, is the executive summary showing which reports have been submitted and what ones are still to be finalised and submitted.</p> <p>We have also previously had our CEMP (Construction Environmental Management Plan) approved and our baseline soil and waste management document and we've been operating under both of these documents for the last 2 years.</p>	

Detailed Plan Design Changes:

We've been working with Chunxing China on the design of the plant and the detailed submission to the EPA which is now 200 pages and has been included in the latest submission. The pollution control system has been updated and more detail provided on how we will management the pollution control throughout the plant and the discharge to atmosphere via the stack. This report includes significant additional detail on the baghouse system, which on the original system was 3 single cells and is now 6 cells, 3 chambers. All chambers are fully independent and can be isolated at any point of time. We only need 2 of 4 chambers to operate the plant, providing a 50% maintenance standby capacity on the baghouse. The cells are independent and can be individually isolated for bag replacement. But it is normal practice to isolate the whole chamber rather than individual cells because it leads to a discharge screw conveyor and if you don't isolate both you can get backflow through the rotating valves.

The other significant design update is in the negative pressure report from our consultant Neville Hook. The original design from Neville had 1 door open continuously during operation of the plant and when that door was closed, we would open 4 louvers to give us adequate flow through the system. We have since updated the design so we can allow 2 doors to be open during operation, and upgraded the fan to achieve negative pressure for the whole building. On top of that we have 2 hygiene fan systems that feed into the exhaust gas from the Furness that allow us to collect and transport acidic gasses from the battery braking zone, into the scrubber system. It will also collect the dry fume from the refining system and feed system of the Furness so that it goes through the 4 stages of the pollution control system. The reason for that is that we collect very fine gas from our coal and that can become explosive under the right conditions so pushing that through the heat exchanger ensures it cools down so it doesn't reach ignition temperature.

Robin
Krause

Question (Mark Richards): What type of coal will you be using and what for?

Coal is used as part of the oxidising process. Black coal is used.

Question (Mark Richards): You were taking about 2 doors before, if someone closes those 2 doors, do the louvers automatically open?

Yes, they automatically open and are operated by the negative pressure inside the building. A sensor will detect and automatically open the louvers.

Question (Mark Richards): If the sensor fails, is there a failsafe to enable the doors to be opened and not suctioned closed?

Yes, it fails open, not closed. There isn't a spring-loaded failsafe.

Mark suggested discussing this risk with the design engineers.

Question (Mark Richards): Do the doors open inwards rather than outwards?

The negative pressure doors are roller doors.

Fire Engineering Report:

The fire engineering report with the BAC investigation is under development. We have engaged a consultant and met with the Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) representatives. There are minutes, with what they are requesting and the engineering solutions to pass the BAC requirements. The consultant we have engaged has told us how many fire extinguishers, hose reels, hydrants, to meet minimum requirements. All single hose lengths. The design also requires an exit within 40 meters of every space in the building so we've increased the number of exit doors by 6. All exit doors are single, not double as otherwise will impact the negative pressure system. All exit doors open outwards. The final design has not been completed yet, but the design specification have been submitted to the EPA. The fire system considers hydrants, water pressure, number of exit doors and is now looking at smoke detection and removal. Our negative pressure system will meet the requirements of the smoke removal.

Question (Mark Richards): With coal being used, has anyone discussed silica issues?

It has not been considered to date but with changing legislation we will consider the risk. Our black coal will be washed. A discussion on silica risk was held with the committee members discussing the change in legislation and other risk sources, not specifically covered at this point but likely to be addressed in the future.

Equipment certification:

All equipment from outside of Australia will have certification to meet the relevant Australian Standards as per the EPA requirement. TUV Rheinland are working with Chunxing and our China suppliers to demonstrate the design meets those requirements and the appropriate certification is provided. The same will happen with the electrical components.

Question (John Ellingham): Did you just say that the engineering design has been specified by the EPA?

No, one of the requirements of the EPA for us to install the plant in Australia, is for us to have it verified that it meets Australian design standards.

The referral process by EPA to other regulators such as WorkSafe was discussed by Stacey Clark, as other regulators don't have a separate concurrent regulatory approval process. Pure has engaged and consulted directly with the other regulators as part of the works approval process. The Vic EPA process is very similar to all states and the way they refer the application to other agencies.

By way of an example, Mark Richards used the construction of a high rise building. Council manage the approvals but they don't have the expertise so rely on an external building surveyor to sign off and come back to council to say it is safe and build to standard. It is similar in this case, but EPA rely on an external engineer, that they have approved, to verify the design meets Australian Design Standards.

John Ellingham raised concern with EPA managing this process. Stacey Clark is happy to discuss offline his concerns with the EPA, noting recent legislative reform. Both the EPA and council have an approval role in this development and other agencies are consulted at various stages of the process by both EPA and Council.

Question (Philip Reichert): Assuming EPA sign off on the works approval, that is not the licence. Can you explain the process and next steps.

A works approval provides you approval to install the plant. Next steps are:

1. Commissioning (testing of the plant),
2. Demonstrate the plant meet emission standards, dangerous goods and chemical standards, safety standards, and passes fire system testing.
3. Apply and obtain a licence to operate.
4. Operate 6 months under continuous monitoring to verify operating conditions.
5. Licence amendment after verifying operating conditions.

Question (Mark Richards): Is panel testing and electrical testing completed in the engineering review?

No, it is completed in commissioning. Specification has been provided to China to ensure they will meet Australian Standards.

Due to certification challenges, certain equipment such as cranes and pressure vessels will be purchased in Australia.

TUV HAZOP is planned for next week to assess design changes we've made in Australia. For example, hydraulic lifts for tipping batteries to eliminate forklift use for this task, redesign of slag granulation process as per design used in Port Piree and addition of desulphurisation process for the slag to reduce sulphur content from 5-6% to 1-2%.

Air Monitor Update

Monthly rent is now being paid to the landowner.

We have a consultant reviewing supply of the equipment.

Waiting on confirmation from the supplier on the size of the support stand and how access to collect samples.

The air monitoring equipment final design and the purchase of the equipment will be post the EPA approval. Installation timeframe will still enable background information/data to be obtained.

Question (Mark Richards): Will a community website be set up with the air monitoring data?

Yes, this will be provided by the supplier.

Robin
Krause

Any other questions from the community members for discussion

Question (Mark Richards): Are the infographics issued at the start of the project out of date?

We can review these and see if they require updating after we have the EPA approval is granted.

Question (Stacey Clark): Given we have some community members absent today, can we re-present next meeting or arrange an offline discussion.

Yes, we can re-present as needed.

Question (Stacey Clark): Can you review the prior questions asked by the community and provide a Q&A with updated answers.

Yes, we'll take an action to review and prepare a Q&A.

Question (Lorraine Bull): Are there still approvals or contributions from council before prior approvals?

When EPA come back with a reply, we will resubmit plans to council for approval. That is building, layout, water management, plant process, office and amenities, and gardening.

Philip
Reichert

Question (Lorraine Bull): There is a section of contaminated land, what are the plans for that section of land? Assessment was completed and is acceptable for commercial use. Some contaminated soil was removed from site and disposed. There is one section northern side of site where the soil could not be removed . We have no long term plans apart from managing fire risk.

Question(Stacey Clark): Do we have information on member attendance at these meetings?
Yes, Rachel has an action to review member attendance for the next meeting. After February meeting, we can advertise for new members.

Question (John Ellingham): Has the company initiated discussions with Latrobe Valley Council and Vic Roads on upgrade of the section of road (Tramway Road sections).
John Petrakos will investigate option for use of Midland Highway.

Next Meeting

Wednesday 21 February 2024

Philip
Reichert