

Used Lead Acid Battery Community Liaison Committee Meeting
21.06.2023
7.00pm
Century Inn Traralgon

Minutes

Topic	Host
Welcome Committee Members and Visitors	Philip Reichert
Apologies	Philip Reichert
Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting Mark Richards and Lorraine Bull approved minutes from last meeting.	Philip Reichert
Introduction of interim secretary to the CLC, Rachel Irvine-Marshall 1. Tanin Brown's role as Executive Assistant was made redundant since the last meeting. Philip Reichert acknowledged Tania Browns commitment to the CLC during her time working for Chunxing Corporation. 2. Rachel Irvine-Marshall will take on interim duties. The role of the Secretary was discussed and the option for a local CLC member to take on the role.	Philip Reichert
Progress Report 1. An additional evaporation pond and drainage channels has been constructed to assist with stormwater management. This has increased stormwater storage levels from 2ML to 3.6ML. Stormwater now travels to the west side of site. 3. From the recent works on site the only soil remaining on site is for backfill of the pond and screened topsoil to be reclaimed. 4. Work has been completed on the detailed design for submission to Victoria EPA for the construction approval. The previous submitted report was rejected as Victoria EPA required additional detail. 5. In the detailed design submissions, EPA have placed a lot of scrutiny on management of the environmental risks of the project. We are utilising consultants with more than 20 years experience in secondary lead smelters. We have needed significantly more detail on the technical design and 10 year upgrade from China. 6. We plan to submit the reports to EPA by September, with an expected 2 months review. Once we have the approvals we will purchase the equipment. Manufacture of the Chinese equipment will take 7 months and 12 months for the Australian equipment. The start date for commercial operation is still expected to be March 2025 (on track with prior timeframes). 7. The detailed design is based on the latest equipment design from Chunxing Corporation and based on plants in Pakistan, UK and China. China has performance guarantee on technical standards. 8. The plant in Hazelwood will not process the separators from the lead acid batteries, due to the potential for dioxins. This is different to the plant in China. 9. We continue to investigate a ship and return solutions for the shipping containers. A solution will be in place prior to delivery of containers. The containers will be sequentially delivered, based on the installation timeline. If any delays occur, a plan to utilise storage in Port Melbourne is being investigated. 10. Darren Nelson, founder of the Pure Nexus lead acid battery business in Perth, is now working on the project. Darren is a chemical engineer with more than 20 years experience in the non-ferrous metals industry and has worked at Wagga Wagga lead acid battery recycling plant for Enirgi Power Storage Recycling.	Robin Krause

<p>11. John Ellingham asked about the difference between the Nexus Perth and Wagga Wagga site. Nexus is only a battery braking process. Wagga Wagga is a battery braking process and secondary lead smelter. Darren's experience at both sites has been invaluable in bringing operational improvements.</p> <p>12. John Ellingham asked about the relationship between China and the Australian business. Robin explained the relationship and agreement. The Australian chinese company was sold to Pure with an agreement to buy the equipment from China.</p> <p>13. In addition to Darren Nelson, consultants working on the detailed design include: Allan Walcott - ARA Melbourne and Sydney (SIMS Metals) Geoff Latimer - environmental consultant, been with the project since commencement. Robin Krause - been with the project since commencement, previously worked in Roxby Downs and Port Pirie. We have a good set of consultants/expertise to work through the detailed design.</p> <p>14. Mark Richards asked why Senior people are joining the project at this late stage. Different expertise is brought onto the project at different stages. Darren Nelson, who sold the Nexus Bibra Lake business to Pure, is now available to provide his expertise to the project.</p> <p>15. John Ellingham asked where is the Chunxing plant was located in the UK? Robin replied that it was located in Berkinside. John then asked if the plant in Hazelwood will meet the UK/EU standards, which are often higher? Robin confirmed that the plant meets these standards.</p> <p>16. Bronwyn asked about changes made to the plant since the original design. Robin confirmed there has been changes made to the size of the building. The plant will also have a heat exchanger rather than a heat recovery boiler as per the original Chinese design. Otherwise the battery breaker, smelter, casting, baghouse are all chinese and based on 20 years experience in design of these plants.</p>	
<p>Air Monitor Update</p> <p>1. At the last meeting we advised the committee that Kenelec are unable to supply the air monitoing equipment that was originally quoted. We have found a company that previously could supply modules for sulphur oxides (Sox), nitrogen oxides (Nox), and carbon monoxide. There have confirmed they are now able to provide modules for lead and particulate matter (PM).</p> <p>2. We have started conversations with land owner to set up a monitor for background monitoring and are committed to completing before construction commences.</p> <p>3. A SEMS system is part of the chinese design and is utilised internationally. It is a 5 gas systeand results can be shown ona baord at the entrance to the plant and online. Dust burden levels will need to be analysed by a NATA laboratory. Dust burden monitors after the baghouse will trigger our of normal operation. Alarms and interlocks will be in place on the SEMS system.</p> <p>4. Samuel Armstrong asked about early warning systems to enable stakeholders to evacuate. He is concerned about evacuation of the school in an emergency situation and how this would be coordinated in a timely manner. Robin explained that the baghouse has been designed with an additional 50% capacity which provides a safeguard. Monitoring outside of the baghouse will shut down the burners. The committee discussed the LaTrobe Valley emergency response plan and the mine fire. The plant will have a detailed emergency reponse plan which will mreuqire approval from a range of government and other stakeholders. It was agreed to add a standing agenda item on emergency response, to enable the emeregency response plan to be presented to the committee at an appropariate time.</p>	<p>Robin Krause</p>
<p>Community Sponership - The Big Blokes BBQ</p> <p>1. John Ellingham thanked Chunxing Corporation and parent company Pure Environmental for their \$1500 donation to the Big Blokes BBQ. The Bigs Blokes BBQ is a local LaTribe Valley charity for research into prostate cancer. The LaTrobe Valley has one of the hioghest prostate cancer rates in Victoria.</p> <p>2. The committee discussed how Chunxing Corporation could support staff in health surveillance/ medical screening once operational. Mark Richards, discussed concerns with managing personal data. Chunxing and the union will work together once the site is operational.</p>	<p>John Ellingham</p>
<p>Response to questions raised by Stacey Clarke of EPA on behalf of a community member</p> <p>No update was provided</p>	<p>Robin Krause</p>
<p>Any other questions from community members for discussion?</p>	

<p>1. Brownyn Woodward asked if the site was able to manage stormwater appropriately with the recent high volumes. Robin Kraus responded that the site has managed the higher volumes and Victorian EPA has visited to the site on 19 June to review stormwater management. Chunxing Corporation had not been informed of any adverse findings from the inspection.</p> <p>2. Lorraine Bull asked if rising gas prices was a concern? Robin explained that we have a very efficient gas burner (uses less than 15% gas to oxygen). Lorraine asked if we have considered hydrogen? Robin replied, not at this point.</p> <p>3. Lorraine Bull asked if any change to by-products with the detailed design changes? It was explained that the only change was that we wouldn't separate out the different coloured plastics.</p>	
<p>Agenda items for next meeting by Wednesday 26th July 2023 to rirvine-marshall@purenv.au</p>	<p>Philip Reichert</p>
<p>Next Meeting Wednesday 16th August 2023 7.00pm. Venue TBA.</p>	<p>Philip Reichert</p>
<p>Close</p>	