



CHUNXING ULAB
Community Liaison Committee Meeting
23.06.2021
7.00pm
Century Inn Traralgon

Agenda Items & Minutes

Topic

Host

Welcome Committee Members and Visitors	Richard Elkington
Apologies	Richard Elkington
Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting A motion to approve the previous meeting minutes from 21 April was made by Leo Billington and seconded by Lorraine Bull.	Richard Elkington
Review and acceptance of Terms of Reference Three changes have been made to update the Committee Terms of Reference. The definition of "Local Community" has been replaced with <i>"those who live, work, study and recreate in Latrobe"</i> . <i>"Guests can be nominated by ULAB CLC members. Guests are welcome at any meeting with prior approval by the chair person"</i> , and <i>"Personal note taking is permitted"</i> . Motion to approve changes was made by Claudio Marino and seconded by Philip Reichert. CLC members were requested to endorse the updated Terms of reference with their signatures before the end of the meeting.	Richard Elkington
Project Status Report Robin Krause presented slides of site and drawings. Robin discussed the endorsement of drawings and reviewed work on site. Robin also discussed the updated construction and environmental plans. Robin commented on soil testing and that the silt on top of the site was not suitable to be compacted for construction, but had more stable grey clay in lower levels. Due to this the area will be terraced to reduce the need to "cut & fill" the site and substantially reduce construction costs. Soil samples have been sent for laboratory analysis to check for blending for compaction. Plans for the site layout, site office, gatehouse and lab have been finalised. The next stage includes the sectional arrangement of the pavements. Chunxing is waiting on EPA Reports to begin site soil consolidation works. Philip Reichert asked if any soil would be leaving site. Robin Krause advised no material would be leaving, and it is possible that clay may need to be brought in for foundation works. Robin also advised that any excess silt after construction would be spread over the site and grassed.	Robin Krause

Richard Elkington advised that there was a soil disposal site at Duttson Downs.

Robin explained that a consultant had been engaged to advise on the rolling and conditioning off the soil to provide a stable base to build on.

Mark Richards asked how water runoff would be managed. Bronwyn Woodward asked if the site floods and is below the surrounding land level.

Robin advised there is a concrete bund that will collect runoff, and that all water that is collected will be stored on site. Beverage Williams have been engaged to investigate storage requirements in a hundred year flood event and that the site storage capabilities exceed this level by 25%

Robin advised Gippsland Water had agreed that appropriately tested water would be discharged under licence as trade waste into the sewerage system.

Richard Elkington asked if the water storage ponds were permeable. Robin advised all permanent site storage ponds were concrete. During the construction phase the runoff ponds would be used with plastic liners.

Fugitive Emissions

Robin discussed that Chunxing had engaged Neville Hook to advise on negative pressure requirements. The report advised 2 fans are required on site. Chunxing will exceed this requirement by installing 3 fans to manage fugitive emissions. Robin explained even with a roller a door open the building will maintain a negative pressure. Robin explained that the vented hoods would extract all dust particles that would be collected in the bag house and processed back to the smelter.

Robin advised the breaker and wet systems would collect all acid fumes through the fan, be processed through the scrubbers and form gypsum.

Robin explained all filtering systems are designed to capture and recycle the maximum amount of lead, by collecting all fugitive emissions, with no gas or dust escaping outside.

Lorraine Bull asked what type of processed coal was being used. Robin explained 2-4mm pulverised and dried black coal would be used as furnace reduction agent, which assists in separating lead and slag. The coal will likely be sourced from NSW/QLD.

Dr Lakshman added that we are trying to source coal locally but the coal needs to meet low sulphur requirements.

Leanne Norwood asked if vent hoods and exhausts are located in areas subject to negative pressure. Robin advised yes, they are subject to negative pressure, with all air drawn from outside through automated doors and louvers. Sensors will be used to manage the negative pressure system.

Leanne Norwood asked how fast do the louvers operate, and will they accommodate a B Double Truck entering the facility. Robin advise extremely quickly, as they are computer automated to detect pressure changes.

Richard Elkington asked if there was a video of how an existing plant operates, and was interested in observing the scale of operation. Chunxing will request a video of the Chinese plant.

Robin
Krause

Mark Richards asked what size the fans were, and discussed interlinked fan systems in the mines, and how they are managed from the control rooms.

Robin advised the fans were large approximately 4m in diameter. Robin also discussed sumps were pumped to water treatment plant, any spillage was collected in the washdown where reactive chemicals were separated and recollected sludge was sent back to the smelter to reduce landfill.

Mark Richards advised the Paper Mill used similar systems.

Dr Lakshman advised that the system was designed to collect all emissions, and not allow anything to escape into the environment or affect the workers in the building.

Robin advised that the main vent system operates by drawing exhaust gases from the smelter through the baghouse into the main stack. Fugitive emissions system collects minor fumes and dust to keep the air clean.

Geoff Latimer advised that the Chunxing vent system works in the same way as a woodburning heater avoids ash being sucked out of the firebox.

Construction Environmental Management Plan

Robin advised Tetra Tech Coffey had been engaged to provide baseline measurements of any contaminants in the soil and ground water. Tetra Tech and Coffey have checked the site is suitable for an industrial level 2 construction.

Robin advised the CEMP acknowledges EPA requirements and will take no ground water from the site. There will also be no soil removed from site. Soil will be reconditioned and excess soil will be spread on site.

Robin referred to the slide outlining objectives of the CEMP with emphasis on key targets:

- *to protect human health and the environment from potential impact of construction*
- *to satisfy key requirement in approval documents*
- *to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and requirements*
- *develop, implement and maintain effective controls for the environmental aspects of the construction works*
- *to incorporate agreed community and stakeholder expectations,*
- *to monitor environmental impacts and to maximise the value and outcomes of environmental monitoring activities*

Richard Elkington asked if the community matches Chunxing's expectations. Robin advised Chunxing has controls and safeguards in place to manage community concerns.

Bronwyn Woodward asked if Chunxing was moving site soil onto a flood zone. Robin advised the site was not flooded in the last storm and all runoff would be stored on site. A 2m deep plastic lined pond with a silt curtain would be utilized to capture and store runoff. The area that would have additional soil spread on it would be reseeded in the long term.

Robin
Krause

Robin explained to minimise dust and runoff the soil will be conditioned in strips, and footing works will be completed in sections. In extreme rain events clean site pond water can be discharged under licence in Eel Hole Creek, and contaminated water will be discharged into the sewer system. Lorraine Bull questioned whether it was Eel Hole or Bennet Creek. Location to be confirmed.

Robin advised all water that falls on the site will be captured and utilized for washing vehicles, dust suppression and soil compaction.

Leanne Norwood - Community question - will water leave the site? How much water will leave site? Who grants the approvals or licences? Robin advised that no water would leave site, bunding is used to manage water flooding. Gippsland water will take trade waste only, no clean water will be discharged into the sewer. Once all holding tanks are built no water will leave the site. Geoff Latimer explained licences are required to discharge waste water and are only used as a backup option and involve cost to the company.

John Buhagiar asked if there was enough storage in rainwater and site ponds, Mark Richards asked what the tank size was, and what will happen to the construction pond. Robin advised the construction pond will be left in place, and the roof water storage tanks are 14000 litres capacity.

John Buhagiar asked when the tanks will be built and Richard Elkington asked when general construction will start. Robin advised earthworks would begin in mid July 2021 and storage ponds construction should start in March 2022 subject to EPA and Latrobe planning signoff.

Bronwyn Woodward asked if the community had been considered in the construction process starting, and was concerned about use of engineering terms being difficult for laypeople to understand. Richard Elkington suggested setting up a meeting including Leanne Norwood off line to discuss the construction processes in plain English.

Robin discussed the CEMP construction sequence, installing paving in 3 stages, constructing the building shell, pouring the internal building slab, installing external paving and roads (early roads will be temporary), construct 8 ponds, install plant, pour concrete slab under main stack, construct surface water pond, install external buildings, office, lab, and gate house.

Richard Elkington asked where first site office will be installed. Robin advised site office will be in the back corner of the site and installed after approvals have been finalised and contractors have been engaged.

Richard Elkington asked when the committee can view the site. Robin advised October, when the soil has been conditioned and the column footing installation has begun.

Adam Leslie asked if there was hardstand areas. Richard advised that the temporary road were hardstand constructed of recycled crushed concrete. Robin also advised that this material would not be wasted and would be used in the foundation works to bind the silt and clay. Clay removed from the pond works would also be used to condition the silt.

Shane Mynard asked if the water treatment ponds were open or bladders, were there any biological hazards that could cause flares and can we replace critical plant in an emergency situation. Additionally would an emergency shut down cause any electrical issues? Geoff Latimer advised as the factory runs a batch process system any hazards would be shut down immediately, and cooling takes place within 15 minutes. Geoff also advised 3 fans exceed emissions requirements and that any emissions released during an emergency shutdown would be incredibly small. Robin did not know how long it would take to replace critical plant but advised that there were no biological hazards on site that would cause flares.

Shane advised that there was new legislation from Fire Rescue Victoria regarding recycling plants that concerned the future sustainability of the plant and limit emergency situations.

Leanne Norwood asked what would happen in the event of a power blackout. Robin advised that there would be a generator onsite to shut down the plant safely and manage the pollution control systems. Geoff Latimer advised it was a 1000Kw diesel generator that is designed to start within 2 minutes of a power outage. Shane Mynard advised it is difficult to get fuel for generators in an emergency situation. Robin advised the plant would be shut down during extended power outages.

Richard Elkington asked what proportion of the plant construction would be Australia made. Dr Lakshman advised the construction of the factory is all Australian and the furnaces and battery breakers would be sourced from China. Dr Lakshman estimated 30-35% of the plant would be sourced internationally, the rest would be sourced locally.

John O'Connor commented that the cement required would likely come from China, as there are only three operational cement processing facilities left in Australia.

Dr Lakshman commented that all installation of equipment would be managed by 4 - 5 local and Chunxing engineers.

Background Air Quality

Robin advised 3 companies had submitted proposals for dust sampling for PM 2.5 fine dust, PM 10 heavy dust, sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and nitric oxide (NO) and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂). Dust collection would analyse all contaminants including lead. Robin advised there is currently no technology that allows continuous lead monitoring. Testing needs to be carried out in a laboratory.

Robin advised two sites are currently being considered for air monitoring towers, at the primary school, and South East of the Chunxing front gate. The air monitoring towers are proposed for installation prior to construction, as requested by the community.

Mark Richards asked when Chunxing expected to install the air quality monitors. Robin advised the proposal should be completed in approximately two weeks. Mark Richards asked what would happen in the event of the air quality monitors breakdown Robin advised we were hoping to use an Australian company to avoid any lengthy maintenance issues.

Leanne Norwood advised that the public were told that there would be live monitoring of air quality in real time. Geoff Latimer explained that gases and dust could be monitored in real time, but lead analysis must be performed in a lab.

Robin
Krause

Leanne asks if the stacks would have emissions monitoring. Geoff Latimer advised that stack testers would take samples as required by the EPA. Geoff also advised that dust samples analysis would be able to provide an indicative measure of the amount of lead emissions. Richard Elkington commented that the lead component of dust was analogous to lead emissions. Robin advised that lead emissions would be measured at the time of the plant commissioning and could be adjusted accordingly at this time if any issues were to be found.

Mark Richards asked if there would be an App that the public could use to track emissions. Geoff Latimer advised that lead amounts could be estimated based on extrapolated data. Dr Lakshman advised that lead content from the stacks could be easily confirmed through sampling, and that there are established parameters in the lead industry.

Richard Elkington asked when the public would have a definitive answer regarding the air sampling. Robin advised that the site was a liquid environment and that we would loose very small amounts of dust, and that we planned to ensure there was pre and post construction sampling to compare the dust levels. Robin also advised that the production processes were as efficient as possible to capture as much lead as possible and have installed scrubbers to collect dust. The stacks should vent gas only and meet EPA requirements.

Richard Elkington asked if seasonal factors would affect the plant dust levels, and Leanne Norwood asked if the winds would blow lead dust across the community. Robin advised that further questions could be sent to the "Contact Us" page on the Chunxing Webpage.

Community Concerns

Claudio Marino advised that he had been vocal for the plant to go ahead and support jobs and industry for the community. Claudio advised his current workplace had been contacted by individual(s) to complain about his involvement in the project and the issue had been escalated to his HR department. Claudio explained his employer had no issue with his involvement with the Chunxing project and were happy and supportive of him in his workplace. Claudio explained that although he had been initially very angry at this level of interference in his workplace, he is now not overly impacted by the situation. Claudio advised that instead of relying on disinformation in social media that people can come to the CLC meetings to gain factual information. Shane Mynard expressed his sadness for Claudio's situation and explained the long term effects this type of harassment could have on your family, Philip Reichert also expressed his concern for Claudio's situation and suggested Chunxing hold an open forum for the community with an update on the plants construction. Mark Richards suggested that we provide a community update on air quality monitoring and towers. Richard Elkington suggested it may be a good time for a media release.

Dr Lakshman advised that Chunxing had donated \$10000 to support local community members that have been impacted by the recent storms and flooding. Committee members suggested various community organisations including the SES, Lions Club, Rotary Club, and Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund be gifted the money. It has been decided that the donation will be made to the Lions Club.

Richard
Elkington

Questions and Comments

Leanne Norwood suggested that we did not have enough community representatives on the CLC committee.

Bronwyn Woodward advised that she did not understand the engineering terms and technology used in the plant.

Richard
Elkington

Richard Elkington advised that Chunxing would be presenting at the next Latrobe Health Assembly Meeting in early July

Shane Mynard asked if CLC members could invite guests, Richard Elkington confirmed guests were welcome.

Philip Reichert suggested we have another community forum as it had been some time since the last meeting. Ellen-Jane Browne undertook to follow this matter up with Leanne Norwood and Philip Reichert after the meeting.

Mark Richards suggested an email poll be conducted to ascertain the interest in a July meeting.

Leanne requested a copy of the CEMP report be made available for the community. Robin advised that it was currently under review by the EPA and that it would be posted on the Chunxing website after it was approved. Robin also advised that the CLC members would be advised when new documents were posted on the website.

Robin also advised that Chunxing would be starting a community newsletter to keep the public updated with project developments.

Agenda items for next meeting by 11 August 2021 to tania.brown@jschunxing.com

Richard
Elkington

Next Meeting Wednesday 25 August 2021 7.00pm. Venue to be confirmed

Richard
Elkington

Close