

## Port Augusta Community Reference Working Group Meeting Notes

Meeting Number	4
Date	Thursday 20 July 2017 at 5:30pm, The Standpipe Hotel, Charles Chappel Room
Attendees	Brian Reichelt, Brett Prentis, Michelle Coles, Robin Sharp, John Miller, Tracey Freeman, Brad Williams (Flinders Power), Steve Dangerfield (communicate)
Visitors	Andrew Solomon (EPA), Pushan Shah
Apologies	Chris Kennett (Housing SA); Robin Harkin (DECD), John Banks (Port Augusta City Council), Dan van Holst Pellekaan, Emily Alchin (Centacare), Ros McCrae (Country Health SA Local Health Network), Peter Georganis (CEO, Flinders Power)

### 1. Welcome and introduction

Steve opened the meeting at 5.30pm and welcomed the visitors for the meeting and noted the apologies (refer attendee list above).

### 2. Acceptance of minutes from last meeting and terms of reference

Steve apologised for the late distribution of the minutes. The minutes were briefly discussed, however, it was agreed that they be ratified at the next meeting to allow members to review in closer detail.

Brett identified one change to be made on page 3 as follows:

With respect to the fuel leak that has been identified between Playford A and B stations, Flinders Power had noted that the intention is that the soil will be dug up and remediated.

#### Terms of reference

Some further changes were suggested. These amendments will be made and the document re-circulated.

Essentially the changes related to the double up of points being made in both 1. Introduction and 2. Purpose, Role and Objectives. Duplicate points will be removed.

#### Bird Lake – Tonkin Report

Steve tabled the Tonkin Report on Bird Lake which had been commissioned by Council. Steve encouraged the group to review this document prior to the next meeting and come prepared with questions. It was again noted that Flinders Power would be a stakeholder in this conversation rather than the facilitator.

It was unlikely that Tonkin representatives would be able to attend the meeting. Andrew Solomon (EPA) advised that he did have a knowledge of the environmental situation and could attend to offer comment.

### 3. Current status – project update

Brad presented an update to the project. Following the presentation, a number of key points were discussed:

- A question was asked with respect to the future of the cooling water inlet pumps. Brad stated that some will be removed, others will remain.
- Discussion was had regarding the installation of monitoring transects across the Ash Storage Area - Brad sees an opportunity to involve the local schools in helping to manage and monitor.
- Given the northern end of the Ash Storage area and polishing ponds is extremely wet and unable to be accessed by machinery to spread soil, concern was raised that this could be a potential issue in the future in terms of dust mitigation and management. Brad noted this and advised that despite minimal rain the area remained soft and too dangerous to access using heavy machinery. He advised that evidence on the site had demonstrated the ability for native plantings to grow directly into the ash. Some self seeding has already occurred. Given this, Flinders Power are looking at a trial to hydro-mulch the area with seed and will monitor plant growth and coverage.
- A further question was asked regarding the northern area as to why it hadn't dried out. Brad informed the group that Tonkin had provided a view – and that this issue was likely to be caused by three things:
  - The size of the ash particles in the northern area are smaller and tend to hold more water (similar to clay)
  - The surface water tends to hold longer in this area
  - Evaporation can also have the effect of drawing moisture up from the below layers of ash. However as the area dries it forms a crust, which acts as a capillary break and stops the continuing evaporation of moisture at the surface.
- While this is an emerging issue that will require management and monitoring, because the area does not dry out, dust is very unlikely to be an issue until we can successfully cover the area with native plants via hydro-mulching. All evidence to date has shown that no dust has come from this area. The areas where dust has been generated are those areas which have now been successfully covered with soil.
- The exposed levee banks of the northern area is however different from the surface areas. These edges will be dealt with differently and will be seeded in the same way that the other areas of the site have been seeded.
- Brad advised that no dates had been set for the next charge felling activity as it was subject to discussions with Safe Work SA and weather (note: since the meeting, the fifth of a total of seven charge felling events will take place on Thursday 31 August 2017. This will involve the demolition of the turbine hall turbo generator stator ring beam. There will be no accessible line of sight to the charge felling as it will be conducted inside the turbine hall building. The use of explosive charges will be audible however no dust issue is expected because the event is being conducted within a closed building).

### 4. Air Quality monitoring

Brad outlined the current approach to air quality monitoring. He stated that air quality monitoring had traditionally been done when the power station was operational to monitor discharge from the stacks of the Northern and Playford Power Stations. During operations,

there were specific requirements stipulated under the EPA licence conditions which dictated the type and location of air quality monitoring that needed to occur.

More recently, since the power station has ceased to operate, the type of air quality monitoring has changed. The focus has now been on dust generated from rehabilitation works. Despite this, air quality monitoring equipment initially set up for the operation of the power station remains in place. Some of the locations where the air quality monitoring stations were initially established do not target dust generation (rather the locations were identified to target fallout from the stacks when the plant was operational), duplicate results and are resource intensive to manage.

Given the focus has changed and the power station is no longer operating, Flinders Power are wanting to rationalise the air quality monitoring stations throughout the area to ensure they are more appropriate to managing the actual risk relevant to closure.

Brad outlined the preferred approach going forward. He proposed the following for discussion:

- Daily weather forecasting with site activities tailored to suit – to continue.
- Real-time trigger alerts being sent to project team from 5 real-time dust monitoring stations – as is currently the case.
- Trigger Action and Response Plan in place with escalating actions.
- Retain the 5 high-volume dust monitoring stations, but:
  - Only run them on days of high potential dust (eg charge felling).
  - Revert to daily sampling if predicted weather conditions indicate a risk to dust generation.
  - Run the Lea Memorial and Stirling North high-volume samplers when there is an outage of the real-time monitors.
  - Run Lea Memorial and Stirling North high-volume samplers periodically for calibration purposes with the real-time monitors.
  - Consider relocating the Stirling North monitor to the Stirling North Primary School (presentation by the EPA).

A question was asked about the rationalisation of the monitors and if we had another dust event would the dust type still be able to be analysed?

Brad stated that it would be able to be analysed and linked to source. This is done by checking the colour of the paper in the monitor. At times the paper has been red indicating general dust from the region. Lately it has been grey from home wood fires.

Weather is also a good indicator as to whether the dust may be generated from the Flinders Power site, hence the need to continue to monitor weather conditions via the on-site weather station.

Another question asked whether monitoring stations can be set to measure certain dust particles. Brad responded by saying that the filters can be changed but the actual monitor itself can't be changed. If the wind direction was expected to change and potentially pose a substantial risk to generating dust on the site, then the filters could be changed in order to ensure that any new dust that might be generated from the change in conditions can be identified.

With respect to changing the approach to monitoring, it was stated by the group that they did not want to risk a sudden change in wind direction and speed and lose the ability to monitor in real time.

Reassurance was provided from the EPA as well as Flinders Power that this was not the intent of the change; that a sudden change in wind condition could be detected and a real time response instigated. The 5 real time dust monitoring stations would be retained together with the 4 high volume dust filter stations and the EPA dust monitor. This is in addition to the existing community monitor.

The EPA stated that they had been discussing this approach with Flinders Power but were interested in understanding the views of the community. The EPA said they were still considering the proposal from Flinders Power and make formal recommendation.

The group understood the rationale for Flinders Power's proposal and stated they would be comfortable with the EPA's position.

It was agreed that Flinders Power and the EPA should discuss further Flinders Power's proposal and agree to the final strategy. This should be communicated to the next meeting of the Reference Group.

It was noted that the air quality monitors at Stirling North had been turned off. Brad was not aware of any formal instruction being issued and therefore suggested it could have been vandals. Brad committed to following this up to understand current status.

#### *Air Quality Monitoring – Stirling North*

The Port Augusta Council asked the EPA for an understanding of the high readings from the air quality monitoring station at Stirling North. Consequently, the EPA undertook a review of the station including dust generating activities occurring adjacent the station to see what might be impacting the readings.

The EPA had produced a comprehensive report which articulated the findings and recommendations. This was circulated to the group and the EPA presented the findings and their recommendations.

The EPA identified that there appeared to have been activity adjacent the location of the monitor which could be affecting the results. This activity was likely to be cars or motorbikes accessing the dirt tracks nearby.

As a consequence of the investigation, the EPA were recommending that the monitor be relocated to the Stirling North Primary school away from dirt roads and vehicle movements.

The group raised concern that in relocating the monitor to the school, buildings on the site may offer protection from the prevailing winds from the south west and therefore prevent the monitor from accurately recording dust activity. While it was agreed that the monitor should be located away from localised activities that might distort the readings, it needed to be in a location where any dust generated from the power station site could be detected.

The EPA agreed to identifying a location where buildings would not prevent the monitor from recording any real time dust event from the south west. In recommending a location to Flinders Power, they would take into account the presence of buildings.

## 5. Community Engagement

### Newsletter

It was noted that the newsletter had been successfully produced. The group commended Flinders Power on ensuring the newsletter was distributed to all homes.

### Open Day

An update on the community open day was provided. An outline of the structure for the day including site tours was presented. Fact sheets, posters and relevant information was being prepared. A presentation was also being prepared to be given by Brad at three specific times throughout the day. Each presentation would be followed by a site tour.

Members of the Reference Group were invited to attend for either all or part of the day. Names of Reference Group members would be presented on the day during the presentation.

### Historical Items

This item was not discussed due to time constraints.

## 6. Other Business

Robin Sharp asked whether there would be further discussion about the sea walls. Steve said that it was a topic that had been noted and opportunity would be provided at future meetings to discuss this issue. Robin said he would most likely send some information to Steve for distribution to the group prior to the next meeting.

## 7. Next steps and meeting close

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 31 August. Exact time would be confirmed depending upon the availability of the room at the Standpipe.

Steve thanked the group and closed the meeting at 7.00pm.

### Actions

Item	Action	Who	When
1	Minutes from meeting 3 to be ratified at next meeting	Steve Dangerfield	August 31 (next meeting)
2	Terms of Reference to be re-distributed and ratified at next meeting	Steve Dangerfield	August 31 (next meeting)
3	EPA and Flinders Power to agree to the new air quality monitoring arrangements and this final position	Brad Williams (Flinders Power) and Andrew Solomon (EPA)	August 31 (next meeting)

	is to be communicated to the group at the next meeting of the reference group.		
<b>4</b>	Status of air quality monitors at Stirling North to be investigated.	Brad Williams (Flinders Power)	August 31 (next meeting)
<b>5</b>	Members to familiarise themselves with the Tonkin Bird Lake report in advance of the next meeting	All members	August 31 (next meeting)
<b>6</b>	Consider a site tour for the reference group, potentially in September	Brad Williams / Kym Maule	August 31 (next meeting)
<b>7</b>	EPA to recommend a new location for the dust monitor at Stirling North. The recommendation must take into account the location of buildings. EPA decision to be presented at the next meeting.	Andrew Solomon (EPA)	