



McArthur River Mine Independent Monitor Meeting Notes

Purpose: Annual meeting between the Independent Monitor (Environmental Earth Sciences), the Department of Regional Development Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources (DRDPIFR), and McArthur River Mining to review the independent monitor's (IM) report for the 2006-2007 monitoring period, and to discuss works to be undertaken by the IM during 2009.

Location: Department of Regional Development Primary Industries Fisheries and Resources, 4th Floor Paspalis Centrepoint Building, Darwin, NT.

Date: 16 March 2009.

TABLE 1 ATTENDANCE LIST

Name	Company	Title
Philip Mulvey	Environmental Earth Sciences (EES)	Managing Director
Laura Boland	EES	Environmental Scientist
Ettienne Moller	McArthur River Mine (MRM) – Xstrata	General Manager
Gary Taylor	MRM – Xstrata	Manager HS&E
Richard Sellers	Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources (DRDPIFR)	Executive Director Minerals and Energy
Russell Ball	DRDPIFR	Director Compliance
Gillian Jan	DRDPIFR	Director Authorisations and Evaluations
Eileen McGovern	DRDPIFR	Team Leader Evaluations
Brett Steele	DRDPIFR	Team Leader Mining Compliance
Peter Zeroni	DRDPIFR	Strategic and Policy Adviser
Mitchell Rider	DRDPIFR	Executive Officer



1.0 Introductions:

- The meeting commenced at 9.00am and an overview of the agenda circulated to the attendees on 12/3/2009 was provided by Peter Zeroni (PZ).

2.0 Review of Activities for the 2007 Operating period (first year of the contract):

- It was decided that the 2007-2008 monitoring period will now be referred to as the "2008 Operational Period."
- The importance of the Independent Monitors (IM) Audit Report being incorporated into the Mining Management Plan (MMP) was highlighted during the meeting.
- With regard to the annual audit report, Gary Taylor (GT) suggested that if the IM is made aware of activities that MRM is currently, or will be, undertaking to address issues identified by the IM for a particular operating period, then this updated information provided could be cited in the Audit report so that the information provided in the report is as up-to-date as possible upon its release. This suggestion is an important one, given the inevitable time lag between the end of a particular audited operational year, and the review of monitoring procedures and subsequent preparation of the audit report. As the updated information provided may fall outside of the formal audited period for the given operational year, the additional information could be cited in terms of the IM being "...made aware or informed of..." a particular plan, activity or action undertaken by MRM, which may be formally assessed by the IM in the following operational year's audit report.
- GT advised that any monitoring issues observed by the IM during the 2009 site inspection will be acted upon and addressed by MRM.
- With respect to the Community Report, it was agreed that this document should continue to include relevant information obtained from the response reports (i.e. the comments provided by MRM and DRDPIFR regarding the audit report) as was the case for the 2006-2007 report. In this way, the community report would provide the most up to date information as to what has happened and is happening at the mine. Again, additional information received from both the Operator (MRM) and the Regulator (DRDPIFR) would be assessed during the following audit period. All meeting attendees agreed that the continuation of the above approach would be valuable in contextualising the IM report for the Community.
- A discussion was held regarding the IM's role in achieving an effective balance between undertaking a compliance audit of the mine's environmental performance, and a technical interpretation of the monitoring data and procedures reviewed. Phillip Mulvey (PM) stated that *ISO14000 – Environmental Management Standards* requires a technical interpretation of the monitoring data in order to detect impending emergency situations and allow for continual system improvement. It was agreed that both aspects are required, and further discussions on achieving an effective balance between the two will continue between DRDPIFR and the IM.
- PM noted that during Community visits, the IM had been approached by Community members to answer questions and undertake works relating to the environment that were outside the scope of the IM contract. PZ and GT said that such queries should be forwarded to DRDPIFR and MRM, as there are existing mechanisms in place to address queries/concerns from the Community. If the IM is not satisfied that an



environmental issue has been adequately investigated or addressed by either MRM or DRDPIFR, then provisions exist under the Independent Monitoring Assessment Conditions (IMACs) for the IM to undertake its own investigation into the matter.

- It was highlighted that some documents were not reviewed by the IM during the 2006-2007 period Audit, as these were either not made available or not sought. The IM, DRDPIFR, and MRM agreed to ensure all relevant documents will be provided with the required timeframes set by the IM for the 2008 Operational Period.
- In relation to the IM obtaining documents required for review as part of the audit process, PZ advised that the IM, in the first instance, should seek documents from the original author/owner (i.e. either MRM or DRDPIFR); this will reduce delays in obtaining required documents and negate the need for DRDPIFR to seek approval from the document's author/owner prior to providing a copy to the IM. PM advised that where possible, requests for specific documents will be made, but also noted that requests of a more generalised nature will also occur (e.g. a general request in relation to all documents regarding research into migratory birds).

3.0 Outline of activities for 2009 (audit and assessment of the 2008 Operational Period)

- DRDPIFR will update the existing scope of services document to further clarify the role of the IM.
- A gap and risk analysis will be undertaken by the IM during 2009.
- A review of management systems and monitoring activities in place during the 2008 Operational Period will be undertaken by the IM, as well as field inspections during June 2009 to inspect the environmental monitoring procedures and operations being undertaken by both the Mine Operator (MRM) and Mine Regulator (DRDPIFR).
- IM will prepare and provide an annual audit report to the Minister for Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources regarding the environmental performance of the MRM operations for the 2008 Operational Period.
- The IM will prepare and distribute a report to the Borroloola community on the environmental performance of the MRM operation for the 2008 Operational Period, and any relevant issues observed during the 2009 inspection. A community presentation will also be held in Borroloola to outline the findings of the report and address questions from the Community.
- The IM will publish the 2008 Operational Period audit report, community report, and other relevant information on the Independent Monitor's website (www.mrm-independentmonitor.com.au)

4.0 Timelines for 2009

- Please refer to the IM timeline attached.

5.0 Other

- The next meeting between the IM and MRM will take place in June 2009 to coincide with the IM's next field trip to the mine site. An annual review meeting between the IM, MRM and DRDPIFR will be held in December of each year.



On behalf of
Environmental Earth Sciences VIC

Project Manager
Geordie McMillan
Senior Scientist

Project Director
Phillip Mulvey
Senior Principal Scientist

Project Administrator
Laura Boland
Environmental Scientist
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