



Centennial Coal



Annual Compliance Report

EPBC Approval 2011/5949

Springvale Colliery

11 March 2014

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Introduction

Springvale Colliery is an underground coal mine located within the Western Coalfield of NSW, approximately 15km north-west of Lithgow. Springvale Colliery extracts coal from the Lithgow seam using longwall mining techniques.

On 14 March 2012 EPBC 2011/5949 approval was granted to allow longwall mining of Springvale Longwalls 415 to 417.

EPBC 2011/5949 Condition 29 requires that “Within three months of every 12 month anniversary of the commencement the person taking the action must publish a report on their website addressing compliance with each of the conditions of this approval, including implementation of any management plans, report, strategy etc. as specified in the conditions. Documentary evidence providing proof of the date of publication and non-compliance with any of the conditions of this approval must be provided to the department at the same time as the compliance report is published. The person taking the action must also notify any non-compliance with this approval to the department in writing within two days of becoming aware of the non-compliance”.

Throughout 2013 there was extensive consultation with the Commonwealth Department of Environment (DoE), formerly SEWPaC, regarding compliance with all conditions of EPBC 2011/5949. A report was provided to SEWPaC to address the requirements of Condition 10 and 29 of EPBC 2011/5949 on 14 June 2013.

This report has been prepared to address the requirements of Condition 29 and Condition 10 for the period of 15 March 2013-14 March 2014.

Details of Compliance with EPBC 2011 / 5949 Approval Conditions

Condition 1

On 21 October 2013 the Federal Department of the Environment granted approval to allow longwall mining being undertaken in areas directly below known high quality sites of Temperate Highland Peat Swamps on Sandstone in the Controlled Action Area.

Condition 2

On 8 June 2012, a letter was submitted to SEWPaC containing details of proposed buffer zones around known high quality sites of Temperate Highland Peat Swamps on Sandstone in the Controlled Action Area. This occurred within 3 months of the date of issue of 2011/5949 EPBC (14 March 2012) and was compliant with the requirements of Condition 2 of the EPBC 2011/5949 approval. The proposed buffer zones were approved on 14 June 2013.

Condition 3

Monitoring of subsidence has been conducted in accordance with the Springvale Colliery Subsidence Management Plan: Proposed Subsidence Monitoring and Reporting Program LW415 to 417 as required under Condition 3 of the EPBC 2011/5949 approval.

Condition 4

There has been no anomalous subsidence detected within 200m of any areas of Temperate Highland Peat Swamps on Sandstone Ecological Communities and no reporting under Condition 4 of the EPBC 2011/5949 approval has been required.

Condition 5

There has been no anomalous subsidence detected within 200m of any areas of Temperate Highland Peat Swamps on Sandstone Ecological Communities and no reporting under Condition 5 of the EPBC 2011/5949 approval has been required.

Condition 6

EPBC 2011/5949 Condition 6 requires the development of a Temperate Highland Peat Swamps on Sandstone Monitoring and Management Plan (THPSS MMP) within six months of approval (14 March 2012). The THPSS MMP was received by SEWPaC on 14 September 2012 which satisfied the requirements of Condition 6 of the EPBC 2011/5949 approval.

Condition 7

The Temperate Highland Peat Swamps on Sandstone Monitoring and Management Plan (THPSS MMP) which was submitted to SEWPaC included prevention, monitoring, mitigation and management actions for all potential impacts on the Temperate Highland Peat Swamps on Sandstone Ecological Community arising from the action as required under Condition 7 of the EPBC 2011/5949 approval.

Condition 8

The Temperate Highland Peat Swamps on Sandstone Monitoring and Management Plan (THPSS MMP) was reviewed by two independent reviewers approved by the department prior to submission to the department for approval as required under Condition 8 of the EPBC 2011/5949 approval.

Condition 9

On 21 October 2013 the Federal Department of the Environment (DoE) approved the Springvale THPSS MMP. The plan has been fully implemented as required under Condition 9 of the EPBC 2011/5949 approval.

Condition 10

EPBC 2011/5949 Condition 10 requires a report of the result of actions, as directed by an approved Monitoring and Management Plan, to be prepared and provided to the department annually on the anniversary date of the EPBC 2011/5949 approval. A report was sent to SEWPaC on 14 June 2013 to satisfy the requirements of Condition 10 and Condition 29 of EPBC 2011/5949.

Throughout 2013 there was extensive consultation with the Commonwealth Department of Environment (DoE), formerly SEWPaC, regarding compliance with all conditions of EPBC 2011/5949. A report was provided to SEWPaC to address the requirements of Condition 10 and 29 of EPBC 2011/5949 on 14 June 2013.

As the Temperate Highland Peat Swamps on Sandstone Monitoring and Management Plan (THPSS MMP) was not yet approved at that time, the report was not required under Condition 10. A report, however, was submitted to demonstrate that actions were being undertaken in good faith by Centennial based on the draft THPSS MMP.

Condition 11

Condition 11 requires the reporting of impacts to Temperate Highland Peat Swamps on Sandstone and defines the timeframes for reporting of impacts. No impacts have been detected and no reporting under Condition 11 of the EPBC 2011/5949 approval has been necessary.

Condition 12

Condition 12 allows the Minister to determine that a severe impact to a Temperate Highland Peat Swamps on Sandstone Ecological Community has occurred based on reports submitted under Condition 10 and 11. No triggers under the THPSS MMP or impacts to THPSS EC have been detected or reported and there have been no severe impact notification letters issued by the department under Condition 12 of the EPBC 2011/5949 approval.

Condition 13

No severe impact notification letters have been received and no Temperate Highland Peat Swamps on Sandstone Response Strategy has been required under Condition 13 of the EPBC 2011/5949 approval.

Condition 14

No Temperate Highland Peat Swamps on Sandstone Response Strategy has been required under Condition 14 of the EPBC 2011/5949 approval.

Condition 15

No peer review of a Temperate Highland Peat Swamps on Sandstone Response Strategy has been required under Condition 15 of the EPBC 2011/5949 approval.

Condition 16

No Ministerial approval or implementation of a Temperate Highland Peat Swamps on Sandstone Response Strategy has been required under Condition 16 of the EPBC 2011/5949 approval.

Condition 17

No reporting of the results of actions carried out under a Temperate Highland Peat Swamps on Sandstone Response Strategy has been required under Condition 17 of the EPBC 2011/5949 approval.

Condition 18

No stopping of work has been directed by the Minister under Condition 18 of the EPBC 2011/5949 approval.

Condition 19

No financial arrangement (bond) related to implementation of a Temperate Highland Peat Swamps on Sandstone Response Strategy has been directed by the Minister under Condition 19 of the EPBC 2011/5949 approval.

Condition 20

No financial arrangement (bond) related to implementation of a Temperate Highland Peat Swamps on Sandstone Response Strategy has been required under Condition 20 of the EPBC 2011/5949 approval.

Condition 21

No financial arrangement (bond) related to implementation of a Temperate Highland Peat Swamps on Sandstone Response Strategy has been required under Condition 21 of the EPBC 2011/5949 approval.

Condition 22

No financial arrangement (bond) related to implementation of a Temperate Highland Peat Swamps on Sandstone Response Strategy has been required under Condition 22 of the EPBC 2011/5949 approval.

Condition 23

No financial arrangement (bond) related to implementation of a Temperate Highland Peat Swamps on Sandstone Response Strategy has been required under Condition 23 of the EPBC 2011/5949 approval.

Condition 24

No financial arrangement (bond) related to implementation of a Temperate Highland Peat Swamps on Sandstone Response Strategy has been required under Condition 24 of the EPBC 2011/5949 approval.

Condition 25

Centennial Coal has met all costs related to independent review of documentation required under Condition 25 of the of the EPBC 2011/5949 approval.

Condition 26

All documents related to EPBC 2011/5949 have been published on the Centennial Coal website as required under Condition 26 of the EPBC 2011/5949 approval.

Condition 27

The action was commenced on 15 March 2012 and advice was provided to the department in writing of commencement of the action on 29 March 2012 which satisfied the requirements of Condition 27 of the EPBC 2011/5949 approval.

Condition 28

Records have been kept of all activities related to the conditions of approval as required under Condition 28 of the EPBC 2011/5949 approval.

Condition 29

EPBC 2011/5949 Condition 29 requires the preparation and publishing on the Centennial Coal website of a report detailing compliance with each of the conditions of the EPBC 2011/5949 approval within three months of each 12 month anniversary of the commencement of EPBC 2011/5949 approval.

Throughout 2013 there was extensive consultation with the Commonwealth Department of Environment (DoE), formerly SEWPaC, regarding compliance with all conditions of EPBC 2011/5949. A report was provided to SEWPaC to address the requirements of Condition 10 and 29 of EPBC 2011/5949 on 14 June 2013.

Condition 30

No independent audit of compliance with the conditions of the EPBC 2011/5949 approval has been directed by the Minister under Condition 30 of the EPBC 2011/5949 approval.

Condition 31

All activities related to the action have been conducted in accordance with the conditions of the EPBC 2011/5949 approval and associated reports, management plans and strategies. No approvals of revised reports, management plans or strategies have been required under Condition 31 of the EPBC 2011/5949 approval.

Condition 32

There have not been any Ministerial requests for revisions to reports, management plans or strategies under Condition 32 of the EPBC 2011/5949 approval.

Condition 33

The action was commenced immediately after the issue of the EPBC 2011/5949 approval. Condition 33 of the EPBC 2011/5949 approval is not relevant.

Condition 34

All documents related to EPBC 2011/5949 (including reports, management plans and strategies) have been published on the Centennial Coal website as required under Condition 34 of the EPBC 2011/5949 approval.