

Meeting Notes



West Cumbria Coking Coal Project Liaison Group		
Date: Wednesday 16 th May 2018	Time: 1100 - 1200	Location: Haig office
Meeting called by	West Cumbria Mining	
Type of meeting	Community Liaison Group	
WCM hosts	Kevin Murphy (KM), Caroline Leatherdale (CL)	
Attendees	Tom O'Fee (TO), Thomas Greer (TG), Stuart Trevaskis (ST), Keith Cartner (KC), Graham Barwise (GB)	
Apologies	None received	
WCM Update		
Discussion		
<p>KM welcomed those attending.</p> <p>KM explained the long gap between the last meeting and today's meeting as being due to the fact that the planning application is still under consideration by Cumbria County Council (CCC). CCC had advised that further survey work would be required with regards to the dewatering of the former anhydrite mine and the subsequent discharge of the treated water in to the sea. This was mainly due to the proposed Special Protection Area of the sea and in order to scientifically prove that there would be minimal impact on the marine environment.</p> <p>In order to undertake the work to prove this, it would take WCM at least 12 further months, so WCM had made the decision to change the design of the project to ensure that the anhydrite mine would not be needed, and therefore its dewatering would no longer be carried out.</p> <p>Access tunnels to the coal would still start at the portals on the Marchon site, but within 250-300m the tunnels would divert away from the direction of the anhydrite mine, towards the coal. The tunnels would pass under the coast in a slightly different location to the original proposal, requiring a small change to the red line boundary. There would be no change to the surface development and any potential environmental impacts from the original dewatering would be removed thus reducing the environmental impact for the project overall.</p> <p>KM explained that the August 2018 planning committee is still being targeted by WCM and in the meantime, positive letters of support from the local community to CCC would help.</p> <p>ST and KC asked if there was a letter template. CL handed them the templates produced previously, but it was agreed that WCM would consider a form of words to be entered into the template.</p> <p>KM reported that large diameter drilling was successfully completed earlier this year, and 8" cores of coal have been obtained for laboratory analysis.</p> <p>KM explained that WCM's Detailed Feasibility Study (DFS) is underway. This is a key document for the potential future investors and financial community.</p> <p>KM advised the meeting that the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) mean that WCM has to write to everyone on its database and request permission that their details are still held by WCM. This is ongoing.</p> <p>A short discussion followed the meeting about various aspects of the project, including its projected timeline through planning determination, construction and operation. KM confirmed that assuming planning permission is granted in 2018, construction will commence in 2019 with recruitment starting in about 18 months' time. Discussions with the supply chain are ongoing, with a focus on encouraging construction firms to use local workers where possible.</p> <p>WCM has been approached by a proposed solar power developer who may bring a scheme forward for a solar farm not far from Whitehaven Golf Club. If the scheme goes ahead, WCM could be supplied by local renewable energy.</p> <p>The next Project Update Event is on 17th, 18th and 19th May.</p> <p>Date of next meeting –to be advised specifically once more information is known about the timescale for the planning determination.</p> <p>There being no other business, KM and CL thanked the attendees and closed the meeting.</p>		