

Meeting Notes



West Cumbria Coking Coal Project Liaison Group		
Date: Tuesday 25 th April 2017	Time: 14:30 – 15:30	Location: Haig Pit Museum
Meeting called by	West Cumbria Mining	
Type of meeting	Community Liaison Group	
WCM hosts	Kevin Murphy (KM), Nigel Voden (NV)	
Attendees	Tom O’Fee (TO), Sharon Blakeley (SB), Thomas Grear (TG), Graham Barwise (GB), Sophie Badrick (SB),	
Apologies	Caroline Leatherdale (CL), Stuart Trevaskis (ST), John Cain (JC), Tony Potts (TP), John Heneghan (JH), Tom Todd (TT)	
WCM Update		
Discussion		
<p>KM introduced NV and explained his role as the site Project Manager based in the Haig office.</p> <p>KM confirmed that the WCM planning application would be submitted at the end of May. All contributors have delivered and had reviewed a first draft of their sections of the application. Revised submissions would be received before the May Bank holiday and the WCM team would focus on completing and submitting the application with the help of Stephenson-Halliday their planning consultants.</p> <p>KM and NV advised that a large jack up barge had been secured to enable WCM to carry out 5 offshore boreholes over the summer months. These boreholes inform the decisions about long term construction funding and are not related to the planning application process.</p> <p>NV explained the process by which a drift re-entry and partial dewatering of the old anhydrite mine would be undertaken during May / June this year. In answer to a question by SB, NV confirmed this was related to the constructability checks in relation to the mine rather than as part of the planning application process.</p> <p>NV confirmed that the EA had granted a temporary extension to the existing discharge permit held by NPL and that the recent test of the water did not indicate the presence of anything harmful. TO suggested that in fact any elevation in the PH levels of the mine water would be beneficial to local streams. NV advised that all water discharge would be to the sea and none would be discharged into local watercourses.</p>		
Feedback from the latest Project Update Event		
Discussion		
<p>KM reported that the most recent 2-day update event had attracted over 1,000 visitors which was a record for these events. Over 500 feedback forms were completed and a further 508 postcards which gave people the opportunity to express support or to show objection. 506 of the postcards were supportive of the new mine with only 2 in objection.</p> <p>KM commented that the large turnout was likely due to the availability of application forms for people to pre-register their interest in working for WCM. Over 1,500 hundred completed forms had now been received and WCM has closed the application period for now.</p>		
Programme of Works		
Discussion		
<p>KM explained that post the submission of the planning application the next phase of the project would ramp up in terms of pre-construction and construction planning. This will consist of identifying the various elements of construction which will be required, forming these into a schedule and establishing supplier / contractors to assist in their delivery.</p> <p>A key element of the construction process will be the dewatering of the Anhydrite mine in order to make it safe and for the extension of the drifts into the coal measures. In response to a question from SB KM confirmed that the EA would be the arbiter of WCM’s plans in this respect, with any planning consent being conditional on an EA licence.</p> <p>KM confirmed the plan was for the mine water to be treated as necessary and discharged to sea.</p>		

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SB enquired about the makeup and maintenance of the green spaces around the mine site. KM confirmed that as part of the planning application a visualisation of these would be included however the exact types of planting etc were still to be decided in conjunction with discussions with Natural England and other stakeholders.

KM advised that in total 18 acres of land would be dedicated to green space so the maintenance would be a significant sub-contract in the future.

Stakeholder Engagement Plans

Discussion

KM advised that a further engagement event would be held in June which would be run in conjunction with a supplier day in July, in order start to collate interest from local companies who may wish to work with the project.

KM confirmed that the full WCM planning application documentation would be made available at the Haig office as part of the next update event.

Any Other Business

In response to a question from TG, KM confirmed the mine name "Woodhouse Colliery" had been selected.

Date of next meeting – 20th June

There being no other business, KM thanked the attendees and closed the meeting.