



Ms Carolyn McNally
Secretary
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

1 March 16

Dear Ms McNally

Subject: Shoalhaven Starches Ethanol Expansion Project Modification – Alterations to Flour Mill Mod 8

Thank you for your Department's letter of 24 February 2016 referring the above project to the Planning Assessment Commission for determination under Ministerial delegation of 14 September 2011.

I constituted the Commission to determine the modification.

I have considered the application carefully and note that Shoalhaven City Council did not object to the proposal and that is currently working with the Department and the proponent on matters that were raised by Council but do not relate directly to the proposed modification. I also note the EPA did not object to the modification and recommended measures in relation to noise and air quality.

I understand that odour has been an ongoing problem at the site and note that the EPA did not recommend any modified or additional conditions in relation to air quality as it has noted that the existing flour mill is not a significant odour source. Therefore, the flour mill is not subject to any specific odour treatment and is unlikely to have impacts on air quality. I also understand that the Department agrees with the conclusions of the Air Quality Impact Assessment for the modification, and considers the existing conditions of approval are adequate for ensuring the air quality impacts of the modified project are measured and managed effectively.

I am aware that the modification involves an increase in the production capacity of the flour mill, however no changes to the approved starch, gluten, glucose or ethanol production rates at the factory or to the volume of wastewater generated and treated on the environmental farm are proposed. The Department indicates that odour emissions from the factory and environmental farm have improved substantially in recent years, due to the implementation of the mandatory odour controls required in the approval.

I understand that additional equipment installed within and on top of the flour mill building has the potential to change the risk of the approved facility, including dust explosion, building explosion, risk of propagation to neighbouring equipment and cumulative risks. The Department recommended that the Proponent undertakes further consideration of safeguards to be included in the Final Hazard Analysis which has already been requested along with a Hazard Operability Study of the modified flour mill; and that a hazard audit is required 12 months after the commencement of operations of the modified flour mill.



Planning Assessment Commission

I note that sections of the riverbank adjacent to the factory and flour mill have eroded causing slumping of the riverbank and that is currently being addressed by the Proponent in consultation with the Department of Primary Industries through a riverbank stabilisation works program. The Department recommended a modified condition requiring regular survey of the rock revetment wall and riverbank, ensuring any changes due to high rainfall events are measured so that appropriate maintenance can be implemented.

I understand that the Department has incorporated EPA's recommendation to ensure that silencers are fitted in accordance with the recommendations of the Noise Impact Assessment and to require the proponent to implement reasonable and feasible mitigation measures that warrant compliance with the noise limits.

I am satisfied that the proposed modification would result in minimal environmental impacts that can be adequately managed through the modified conditions of approval.

The modification application is approved as recommended subject to conditions. The signed instrument of approval and file (10/06422-10) are returned herewith to the Department.

Yours sincerely

Ms Lynelle Briggs AO
Chair
Planning Assessment Commission

cc. The Hon. Rob Stokes, MP
 Minister for Planning
 GPO Box 5341
 SYDNEY NSW 2001