



5 December 2019

Attendees

Representative	Organisation
Peter Duncan	Commissioner
Lisa Honan	Commission Secretariat
Callum Firth	Commission Secretariat
Lauren Barnaby	Origin Energy
Matt Davies	Origin Energy
Gemma Dobson	Origin Energy
Fernanda Maluly Kemeid	Origin Energy

Part A - Introductions

The Commission Panel Chair provided:

- an overview of what the Commission was seeking to see and understand
- discussed progress on previous questions taken on notice
- Identified Alice Clark's absence and the agreement that Peter Duncan (Panel Chair) would represent the Commission for the length of the site visit

Part B - Site Inspection

1) Stop 1 – Main Southern Embankment and Buttress (outside of the Modification Application)

The Panel observed the main southern embankment. The Applicant advised that work was planned to expand the existing buttress as part of the existing ash dam stability project and that discussions were being held with the Dam Safety Committee regarding the works. The panel observed the stability sensors which were monitoring any embankment movement. The Panel was advised that there had been little movement recorded since monitoring began in 1982.

2) Stop 2 – Air Quality Monitor

The Panel observed one of the solar powered on-site air quality monitors. The Applicant advised that air quality was monitored in real time and a real time alerts are sent out for readings over 120 μm within every 15 min period. The Applicant talked through their indicative response plan and advised that this allowed them to manage compliance with air quality limits in the Environmental Protection Licence (EPL). The Applicant confirmed that



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Eraring Ash Dam - Site Visit Notes

there was a strategy for high dust events that exceeded the trigger level and that a response plan was in place to manage them.

3) Stop 3 – View of Dam

The panel observed a view of the southern end of the Ash Dam . The Applicant explained that certain areas of the dam were able to have machinery operating on them as they had been progressively rehabilitated. These areas were operating to strategically divert surface water flow for optimal storage. The Applicant pointed out the siphon pond which water in the decanting process entered down to the spillway.

4) Other

During the site inspection the Applicant answered two questions:

Q1 - The Applicant previously described a community consultation forum. The Panel asked the Applicant to explain further how the forum operates.

A1 – The Applicant described that the Applicant chaired the community forum which met quarterly. The forum has representatives from community and other stakeholder groups and was a ‘two-way dialogue’ where the Applicant obtained insights into community issues and also informed community of activities on the Project Site. The Applicant described that the community forum has been briefed on the Modification Application, outages and operational matters and were updated about the ash dam stability project.

Q2 – The Applicant previously described impact management and mitigation to address seismicity (earthquake) activity. The Panel asked how the Applicant considered seismicity activity compared with subsurface mine blasting activities?

A2 - Applicant’s engineer discussed that impacts from seismicity (earthquake) activity would be larger than subsurface mine blasting impacts and that blasting techniques are not a typical occurrence in contemporary underground mining operations.