

MEDIA RELEASE

**VALES POINT ASH DAM POND 4
DELTA ACCEPTS DECISION OF REGULATOR**

Delta operates Vales Point Power Station and Ash Dam under the conditions of an Environmental Protection Licence which is regulated by the NSW Environmental Protection Authority (NSW EPA). Delta takes its duty of care to the local community and environment seriously. The Vales Point Ash Dam has existed since the construction of the original Vales Point “A” power station in the 1960’s.

As part of this commitment in September 2018, and as part of ongoing monitoring, Delta identified a significant volume of unapproved demolition waste within the soil used as capping material at the Vales Point Ash Dam Pond 4. Delta immediately contacted the EPA, triggering an on-site meeting by EPA inspectors. Delta also immediately contacted local authorities, including the local council and state health authorities.

All deliveries to the ash dam were immediately suspended and the site closed pending investigation.

The EPA visited the site and requested Delta do further testing to determine the nature of the material. An independent analysis as required by the EPA Clean Up Notice revealed there was some demolition waste with suspected bonded asbestos, in contravention of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997. Multiple tests and comprehensive sampling revealed there was no airborne asbestos present and there was no danger to the local community.

Howard Recycling Services was contracted by Delta to manage the ash dam and capping material in line with EPA requirements. The capping material had been sourced and accepted by Howards Recycling Services and spread across the site. Delta had no evidence prior to the routine inspection in September 2018 that Howards Recycling Services was accepting or spreading unapproved waste on Ash Dam Pond 4.

Delta Managing Director Greg Everett said the Company had zero tolerance of any breaches of this type.

“Delta has conducted extensive testing and analysis since September 2018 and is confident there’s no risk to the public from the material at Ash Dam Pond 4” he said.

“The Company expects all employees and contractors to fully comply with all local, state and federal laws and protect the local environment. Delta has terminated its contract with Howard Recycling Services and manages the checking and receipt of capping material using its own staff in a fully revised, more stringent quality process”.

The EPA has reviewed the results of the independent analysis, has issued Delta with Penalty Notices in relation to the 2018 incident and has ordered Delta to commence the clean up of the site.

“Delta respects the role of the Regulator and will promptly implement the directions” Greg Everett said. “Delta took immediate steps to bring the unauthorised material to the attention of the EPA. The Penalty Notice balances the need to protect the environment with the constructive approach by Delta in reporting and dealing with the issue.” he said.



For further information, contact: Steve Gurney, Company Secretary, 02 4352 6003.

END

13 October 2020