

Great Southern Energy Pty Ltd
Level 7, 287 Elizabeth Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000
Attn: Chris Armit

Dear Chris Armit

ML 1051, ML 1052, ML 1308, MPL 1349, MPL 1389, MPL 1400 (1906), Part CCL 706, CCL 707, MPL 337 (1973), Great Southern Energy Pty Ltd, ML 1370 & ML 1632 (1992) (held by Centennial Myuna Pty Ltd); CCL 719 & CCL 721 (1973) (held by Centennial Mannering Pty Ltd), CCL 722 (1973) (held by Centennial Munmorah Pty Ltd) - Approval of Mining Operations Plan

NOTICE OF APPROVAL

Pursuant to the relevant Condition of ML 1051 (1906), ML 1052 (1906), ML 1308 (1906), MPL 1349 (1906), MPL 1389 (1906), MPL 1400 (1906), Part CCL 706 (1973), CCL 707 (1973), MPL 337 (1973), CCL 719 (1973), CCL 721 (1973) and CCL 722 (1973) the Mining Operations Plan (MOP) that was submitted to the Resources Regulator ('the Regulator') on 21 July 2020 (Department Reference: MAAG0007901) is approved for the period from the date of this approval until 30 April 2021.

The Regulator notes that workings associated with S4 and S5 Miniwalls are included in MOP with the extraction plan not yet currently endorsed by the Department of Planning, Industry & Environment (DPIE). The Regulator reminds Great Southern Energy Pty Ltd of the obligation to ensure the relevant extraction plan has been endorsed by DPIE prior to commencement.

The assessment of the MOP performed by the Regulator has identified several knowledge gaps / limitations. Great Southern Energy Pty Ltd must address these knowledge gaps / limitations in the next MOP / MOP Amendment for Chain Valley and Mannering Collieries:

1. 'Terrestrial' based mining within the location of Fishery Point is proposed by MOP Plan 3B, however no detail is provided in the MOP regarding proposed subsidence monitoring, remedial measures or methods for reporting of impacts. The MOP is to be updated to provide details of these omissions. Section 9 of the MOP may also require incorporation of monitoring and remedial action measures associated with terrestrial based mining, particularly the Trigger Action Response Plan.
2. 'Aquatic' based mining related subsidence monitoring is mostly deferred to the relevant Extraction Plan, Seagrass Management Plan and Benthic Communities Management Plan ('Plans'). A summary of the monitoring, remediation / maintenance and reporting described by these Plans is to be provided in the next MOP submission.

3. The MOP commits to the decommissioning and rehabilitation of the domain identified as the Mine Cottages. The Project Timeline provided for these works has the Mine Cottages within 'growth media development phase' from Q4 2020 until Q4 2023. The Regulator reminds Great Southern Energy Pty Ltd of its requirement to rehabilitate progressively, that includes transitioning of rehabilitated areas through the relevant phases of rehabilitation. Further justification for the delay of 'ecosystem establishment and development phase' is required.
4. Rehabilitation monitoring is deferred to Appendix 2 - Rehabilitation Monitoring Program that describes the only monitoring to be performed prior to mine closure is that of analogue monitoring sites every four years. A program has not been devised to assess the performance of smaller rehabilitation areas such as the Mine Cottage domain that may be performed prior to closure. The MOP and Appendix 2 (where relevant) are to be updated to include a rehabilitation monitoring program for smaller areas to be rehabilitated to ensure rehabilitation performance is appropriately assessed, tracked and remedial actions taken as appropriate.
5. Inconsistencies regarding the removal of services and infrastructure within Table 6.1 and Section 5.3.1 are to be addressed. Moreover, the MOP does not provide differentiation as to when services / infrastructure would be removed or capped in-situ (for example, the Regulator may consider capping services in-situ should there be limited - no risk associated with remaining in-situ, these services do not inhibit post mining land uses and removal would have unacceptable risks to safety etc).
6. Rehabilitation objectives and completion criteria are to be updated (where relevant) to incorporate 2019 baseline monitoring observations / results associated with the development of Appendix 2 - Rehabilitation Monitoring Program.
7. Rehabilitation objectives and completion criteria are to be updated to ensure that criteria are specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time bound (SMART) and avoid nondescript terms such as 'generally consistent with'.

It is the responsibility of the Authorisation Holder to ensure that all mining and mining related operations described in this MOP are as approved within the relevant Project Approval or Development Consent and all necessary approvals, consents or permits required under the relevant NSW or Commonwealth regulations have been obtained prior to carrying out the operations.

It is the responsibility of the Authorisation Holder to fulfil their obligations and commitments to the rehabilitation outcomes and performance standards as approved by the relevant consent authority to ensure the rehabilitation outcomes identified are achieved.

ASSESSED DEPOSIT

Approval of this MOP has triggered a review of the assessment of the security deposit required to secure funding for the fulfilment of rehabilitation obligations under the listed Mining Authorisation Number(s). Notice of the change in the security deposit condition related to this MOP approval will be provided separately.

DEFINITIONS

In this letter, words have the meaning given to those terms in the Mining Act 1992, unless otherwise specified below.

Authorisation Holder means the holder of the relevant authorisation(s).

Mining Operations Plan means the project, mining and mining related operations described in the Chain Valley Colliery and Mannering Colliery Mining Operations Plan Rehabilitation Management Plan 2020-2023 prepared by Great Southern Energy Pty Ltd and dated 11 June 2020.

Signed under delegation from the Minister for Resources and the Secretary of the NSW Department of Regional New South Wales.

If you require additional information, please contact the Resources Regulator on 1300 814 609 (Option 2, then 5), or via email at nswresourcesregulator@service-now.com.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Ainsworth
Manager Environmental Operations
Mining Act Inspectorate
Resources Regulator

5 August 2020

Other copies provided by email to: David McLean