



Delta Electricity

Vales Point Power Station - EPL761
Pollution Incident Response Management Plan (PIRMP)

EXTERNAL WEB-BASED VERSION

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1. Introduction

1.1 Title

This document is titled: **Delta Electricity - Vales Point Power Station –EPL 761 - Pollution Incident Response Management Plan (PIRMP).**

The PIRMP has been prepared as required by the Environmental Protection Licence (EPL) for Vales Point Power Station ([EPL 761](#)).

1.2 External web-based version

This external web-based version of the PIRMP has been prepared in accordance with the NSW Environment Protection Authority's (EPA) requirements that the following sections of the plan be made publically available:

- ▶ procedures for contacting the “relevant authorities”
- ▶ procedures for communicating with the community
- ▶ excluding any personal information within the meaning of the *Privacy and Personal Information protection Act 1998*.

The full version of the PIRMP is maintained at the Vales Point Power Station and is readily available to the persons responsible for implementing the plan and to an authorised officer of the EPA on request.

1.3 Vales Point Power Station Operations

Delta Electricity (Delta) is the owner and operator of the Vales Point Power Station (Vales Point), a 2 x 660MW coal fired power station. The Vales Point site comprises a mosaic of cleared areas of operation interspersed with natural vegetation areas.

Lands associated with the operations of Vales Point are primarily used to support power generation activities, including the storage of ash, coal conveyors, canals, pipelines and coal storage areas.

The large expanses of buffer land act as an important habitat for native flora and fauna surrounded by a landscape of private residential development and associated infrastructure.

Buffer zones are composed of:

- ▶ Native vegetation types including woodlands, wetlands and open forest; and
- ▶ Active and decommissioned coal mine areas under lease.

A locality map showing the location of the Vales Point Power Station and associated lands, as well as surrounding conservation and residential areas (sensitive receivers), is provided in [Attachment 1](#).

1.4 Objectives

This PIRMP sets out the requirements for the notification, response and management of pollution incidents as defined in the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (POEO Act) and the *Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Regulation (2009)* (POEO Regulation) for the Vales Point Power Station, including external plant and perimeter lands, Delta personnel and/or contractors working for Delta at Vales Point Power Station.

The PIRMP has been developed to meet the requirements of the POEO legislation and nominates the appropriate responsibilities and actions assigned to Delta personnel to ensure the requirements of this procedure are strictly adhered to.

1.5 Scope

This PIRMP shall be applicable to ALL Delta personnel, visitors and contractors to Vales Point Power Station and associated premises.

The PIRMP sets out the responsibilities and specific requirements in relation to notifying, responding to and managing pollution incidents as defined in the POEO Act. This PIRMP is a component of the broader Delta Vales Point Emergency Response Plan and Business Continuity Management System.

A pollution incident is required to be notified to the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and other regulatory agencies as detailed in the POEO Act where there is **a risk of actual or potential material harm to the environment**. Material harm is defined in Section 1.6 of the PIRMP below.

This PIRMP specifically lists the Delta personnel designated as responsible by the Delta Chief Executive for ensuring that actions and requirements nominated in this PIRMP are carried out as specified.

1.6 Pollution Incident Definition

A Pollution Incident means an incident or set of circumstances during or as a consequence of which there is or is likely to be a leak, spill or other escape or deposit of a substance, as a result of which pollution has occurred, is occurring or is likely to occur.

It includes an incident or set of circumstances in which a substance has been placed or disposed of on premises, but it does not include an incident or set of circumstances involving only the emission of any noise.

A pollution incident is required to be notified if **'material harm to the environment is caused or threatened'**, which is defined in Section 147 of the POEO Act as:

- (a) harm to the environment is material if:
 - (i) it involves actual or potential harm to the health or safety of human beings or to ecosystems that is not trivial, or
 - (ii) it results in actual or potential loss or property damage of an amount, or amounts in aggregate, exceeding \$10,000 (or such other amount as is prescribed by the regulations), and
- (b) loss includes the reasonable costs and expenses that would be incurred in taking all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent, mitigate or make good harm to the environment.

It does not matter that harm to the environment is caused only in the premises where the pollution incident occurs.

2. Pollution Incident Notification

The following section provides the contact details and requirements for Delta personnel, regulators and other stakeholders during a pollution incident. The section also details how neighbours and in what circumstances neighbours will be advised of an incident.

2.1 Immediate Notifications of Incident to Relevant Authorities

The PIRMP Notification Protocol in **Figure 1** details responsibilities of designated Delta personnel with regard to assessing and potentially reporting a pollution incident in accordance with POEO legislation.

Delta is required to immediately notify the following relevant authorities when a pollution incident has occurred **that is causing or threatening material harm to the environment** (i.e. it is not trivial):

- NSW EPA;
- Fire and Rescue NSW;
- NSW Health (local Public Health Unit);
- SafeWork NSW; and
- Local Council - Central Coast Council (Wyang) and Lake Macquarie City Council

An Environment Incident Summary Log will be used to document the notification of relevant authorities.

The information required to be provided as part of the notification process includes:

- a) The time, date, nature, duration and location of the incident;
- b) The location of the place where pollution is occurring or is likely to occur;
- c) The nature, the estimated quantity or volume and the concentration of any pollutants;
- d) The circumstances in which the incident occurred (including the cause of the incident, if known);
- e) The action taken or proposed to deal with the incident and any resulting pollution or threats; and,
- f) Other information prescribed by the POEO Regulation.

Lack of any of the above information should not prevent the responsible Delta manager from making an immediate notification in the case where the incident has been deemed to be causing or threatening material harm to the environment. As additional information becomes available, it will be communicated with all the relevant authorities immediately.

The Environment Incident Summary Log will be updated as required and used to document any information updates made to the relevant authorities.

Figure 1 PIRMP Notification Protocol



2.2 Contact details

Table 1 contains details of the key personnel within Delta and details of relevant authorities and other stakeholders that require notification in the event of a pollution incident.

Table 1 Delta Vales Point Incident Contact Details

Contact Name	24 hour Contact Phone Number
Delta Personnel	
Vales Point Power Station Switch	(02) 4352 6111
Vales Point Power Station Shift Manager	(02) 4352 6220
Vales Point Community Information Line	1800 115 277
Relevant Authorities	
EPA Pollution Incident Hotline	131 555
NSW Fire and Rescue	000 (for emergency situations) 1300 729 579 (incident notification only)
NSW Health – Gosford Public Health Unit	(02) 4320 9730
SafeWork NSW	13 10 50
Lake Macquarie City Council	(02) 4921 0333
Central Coast Council (Wyang)	(02) 4350 5555

3. Communications with the Local Community

3.1 Communicating with Neighbours and the Local Community

Delta has developed a community database, DARZIN, for communicating with the community in the event of an incident that has the potential to affect neighbours or the local community.

The database will also be used, where required, for general communication with neighbours and the local community.

Delta's principle in identifying neighbours is based around members of the community or businesses that:

- ▶ Adjoin Delta property boundaries;
- ▶ Have a direct line of sight to the power station; and
- ▶ Sensitive receivers, such as schools, nursing homes etc.

The community database also includes members of the wider community from:

- ▶ Existing regional lists including stakeholder forums, local government, MP and media contacts;
- ▶ Names and addresses (opt-in) of adjoining neighbours gathered from invitation letter; and
- ▶ Information gathered from public sources including schools, nursing homes, childcare centres, community centres, tourist destinations etc.

The database:

- ▶ Facilitates quick contact with large number of stakeholders either through email, SMS or phone;
- ▶ Provides one central location for storing up to date contact information;
- ▶ Allows tailored message and stakeholder segmentation; and
- ▶ Provides reports for analysis and documented evidence.

In the event of a material pollution incident, subject to advice from the regulatory authorities, the following methods of communication are able to be used to communicate with the local community.

3.1.1 Recorded Voice Announcement (mandatory)

A recorded voice announcement will be placed on the RVA Community Information Hotline and public stakeholders notified via the DARZIN database. This enables local residents to receive information on the nature of the incident and any arrangements following an incident.

3.1.2 Optional Communication Modes

The following optional communication modes may be implemented:

- ▶ Updating web page;
- ▶ Newsletter drop; and
- ▶ Advertisements.

3.2 Information to be provided to the Community

Decisions to notify neighbours and the local community will be made in consultation with regulatory authorities based on an initial risk assessment (for example, considering the type of pollutant, concentration of emission, prevailing wind and height of the emission).

Advice provided to the community will depend on the type and extent of the pollution incident and guidance from the regulatory authorities. The following examples are provided as a guide:

- ▶ Uncontrolled emission of air pollutant – Community advised through DARZIN and applicable media outlets to close windows and doors turn off air conditioning equipment and stay indoors.
- ▶ Uncontrolled release of contaminated water into a waterway – Advise local community to avoid fishing in affected waterways, to restrain pets from entering affected waterways or utilising the waterway for recreation (e.g. swimming, skiing) until the waterway is deemed safe to use following sampling and monitoring.

The Delta Company Secretary will be responsible for co-ordinating the notification and update of information to neighbours, the local community, regulatory authorities and media.

Attachment 1 Vales Point Location Map

