

Minutes from Community Forum #43
7.00pm, 16 December 2009
Bob Druitt Training Centre



Forum Attendees:

Colin McDonald, Mellissa Case, Dianna Bozzetto, Frank Bowen, Frank Barker, Ron Heymer, Paul Tooker, Ros Tooker, Sam Ricciu, Brian Ross, Bruce Hunt, Col Chapman, John Feddersen, Kelvin Banks, Errol Page

Apologies:

Phil Campbell, Ross Greenhalgh, Mike O'Neill, Neil Lymberry, Allan Shaw, Dulcie Benn, Lewis Fellowes, Brian Whelan, Kevin Dyer,

Agenda:

- Welcome and Introduction – Colin McDonald
- Standing items:
 - Complaints database – Diana Bozzetto
 - Environmental Projects update – Colin McDonald
 - Community activities – Mellissa Case
- Discussion items – John Feddersen
- Questions and answers – Colin McDonald

Minutes / Action	By Whom	By When
Minutes of the Forum meeting published in the Gladstone Observer, Port Curtis Post and on the QAL website.	Mellissa Case	16 January
Complaints Database – Diana Bozzetto		
<p>Presentation on community complaints including alkali, dust, noise and odour year to date. 146 complaints have been received with a large percentage relating to the incidents in January and May. The majority of complaints continue to relate to odour at 42%.</p> <p>Forum members requested a breakdown of dust complaint categories and enquired as to whether specific coal dusts could be determined. Also mentioned that odour smell has changed to a sulphur like smell and enquired as to whether it is linked to a change in coal. QAL has used Boundary Hill coal in the past and is currently using Callide coal, both of which are low in sulphur content. QAL has been burning more recycled oil than planned due to unplanned outages, however it is also low in sulphur content and neither can be linked to a change in the process odour.</p> <p>The option of QAL converting to cogeneration and gas as discussed. At this stage there has been no progress.</p> <p>A blocked knock out pot in the thermal oxidiser resulted in Unit 3 venting to atmosphere for the last couple of days, causing a string of odour complaints. This issue is currently being resolved and</p>		

<p>maintenance plans are being reviewed to prevent a reoccurrence.</p> <p>Discussed why odour events were not published in the Observer. It is not considered newsworthy and therefore would not be published. Advertising deadlines mean that it would be published too late, so the only option is to place on website and email community members. Meeting being held on Friday to discuss these options in further detail. As discussed at Forum #42, any future planned outages will be advertised as the need arises.</p> <p>Reportable incident to DERM involving dissolved oxygen at Residual Disposal Area is believed to be linked to increased biological activity. A team has been assigned to investigate issue and third parties will be conducting independent studies.</p>		
<p>Environmental Projects Update – Colin McDonald</p>		
<p>A summary of progress on major projects to reduce onsite emissions was provided</p> <p>Wagon Washing Facility: Since September 2008, QAL and industry in partnership with Queensland Rail and DERM have been investigating the best practice to mitigate dust from empty coal wagons.</p> <p>A number of strategies including washing empty wagons and spraying a synthetic polymer have been explored and negotiations are continuing.</p> <p>Work currently underway:</p> <p>Thermal oxidiser: Air-cooled condenser & Liquid Effluent Disposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Install Variable speed drive on fans (VSD received) – Electrical Design completed by Aurecon – Back drafting in progress – Reduce odour carryover into condensate stream – Increase effluent flow to TO – Installation of new liquid Injection nozzles to burn VOC's – Redesign of Flame Arrestors in progress to minimise maintenance- in line steam cleaning (reduce exposure to odorous chemicals etc.), reduce DP across to process vent system from Evaporation – Completion date February 2010 <p>Holding Tank Vents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Holding Tank 1 installed with 2 trays (80% reduction in 		

emissions)

- Vent Flaps installed on Tanks 7 & 9
- Vent Flap design modified between 7 & 9
- Holding Tank 9 Vent Flap 60 - 80% reduction in Emissions
- Vent Flaps to be installed on remaining tanks as part of Holding Tank Turnaround
- Redesign of vent flaps completed.
- Manufacture of vent flaps with workshop
- Next Installation on Holding Tank No2 Jan 2010, with revised design
- Completion date Nov 2010

Calciner improvements recently completed

- Dust emission reduction
 - Bag House Air slide replacement
 - Dust transport system replacement
- Removal of all rotating equipment
- Remove significant sources of dust leaks
- GSC #3 Seal Pots installed and commissioned

Tertiary Hose Out

- Trial of Tank clean-out performed with a modified concrete pump arm completed
- Reduced caustic emissions by 98%
- Reduced noise (duration by 50% & Level by 25%)
- Further development required to see if suitable for other equipment

Dust improvements:

A general presentation was provided on recent dust improvements in relation to coal and alumina as well as the cause of increased dust during shiploading on the weekend. QAL has procedures in place to stop loading if certain triggers are reached as detailed in Forum #42.

Community Activities – Mellissa Case

Girls Night In

The girls at QAL organised a Girl's Night in fundraising night with over 150 ladies in attendance. A total of \$7 785 was raised for the Queensland Cancer Council

Movember

QAL formed its first formal team for Movember with a total of 31 Mo Bro's and Sistas. Over the month \$7 252 was raised for the fight against prostate cancer and men's depression

Vacation Students

14 university students are currently undertaking vacation work at QAL with a 12 week paid placement. They will be working across the refinery with mentors on various projects.

CHAMP

Clean Healthy Air Management Program has been rolled across GILG members sites. Qal has completed the rollout out on site to all employees and contractors with 112 suggestions put forward – both big and small. 24 employees will participate in focus groups in the new year and ideas will be shared between GILG members.

Focus Group Summary

- Review complaints management procedure - complete
- Community forum members profiles are raised in the community by:
 - Short biography and photo on the QAL website, community Forum page
 - Community forum members mentioned in meeting minutes advertising
 - Use community members to comment on environmental issues/improvements as required in QAL media releases
 - QAL to assist with media releases on topical issues in collaboration with the forum members
- More detail is provided in forum meetings on the key issues of emissions reductions (odour, dust, alkali)
- Ensure that 1800 number is more widely promoted
- Investigate possibility of employees having mandatory yearly medical checks
- Organise tour for forum members of South Gladstone Monitoring Station – complete

Clean Up QAL Day

Quarterly Clean Up day held in October with a total of 3.1 tonnes of material cleaned up. In partnership with Council, QAL has adopted Wuttke Road in the community as a clean up area with 20 cubic metres of rubbish removed.

Lookout Upgrade

QAL lookout has been approved for an upgrade in 2010. The project will be completed in stages with first stage being the shelters and interpretive panels

Tours

- Site tours are complete for 2009 with just over 1 000 visitors viewing QAL operations on guided tours. In 2010 Mine to Market tours will commence in partnership with Boyne Smelters, combining QAL tour with BSL. Retiree

tour guides will continue to be used to lead the tours and a management plan is currently being developed.

Discussion items – John Feddersen

Current Aluminium Market

Forum members were provided with a presentation on the current global aluminium market. Graph clearly shows that aluminium inventory has remained stable at record levels, however many refineries and smelters that curtailed production during the GFC have come back on line. Price has increased, however this has been offset by the strength of the Australian dollar.

Asbestos removal program

QAL has been engaged in Asbestos removal since early 2000 with the objective of ultimately being a friable asbestos free site. To date over \$69 million has been spent on Asbestos removal. Plan has been reduced due to the economic position; however work has continued and is focussed on high incidence work areas All major vessels have been completed and work will now focus on pipe racks.

QAL has a structured Asbestos management plan which complies with Queensland Workplace Health and Safety regulations. An extensive monitoring program is also in place using NATA approved counters.

CHAG Update

Community Forum member tabled a letter for other members information which detailed questions asked by the CHAG community reference group regarding the Boyne Smelters Air Emissions report.

Other QAL updates

GILG recently lobbied Government to continue with Electrical/Instrumentation dual trade. Trade has now been reintroduced and will continue.

QAL will have 15 apprentices next year including one trainee. Numbers have been slightly reduced, however QAL remains committed to training for the future growth of the region.

Safety culture team has been formed on site and as a result of findings from surveying the workforce, QAL has allocated \$20,000 per team to conduct a safety project in their area. Tools that we use on site have also been reviewed and \$500,000 has been allocated to purchase new anti vibration tools.

A number of facilities have also been upgraded across the site as

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part of a 5S program.		
Meeting schedule:		
<p>A general discussion was held on the type of information and graphs forum members would like to see.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional slide for Environmental project update to specifically detail what will happen within the next twelve months. • Cut environment complaint graphs down to five years so that more detail can be seen <p>Annual summary of complaints broken down to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • odour – what % is linked to outages • dust - complaints divided between coal, alumina and other. <p>The next community forum will be held in conjunction with a meeting with board members. Date and time TBA.</p>	<p>D Bozzetto</p> <p>D Bozzetto</p> <p>M Case</p>	

Meeting closed: 9.30pm

Attachments:

- Draft of advertisement
- Complaints Database
- Environmental Projects Update
- Community Activities.