

Minutes from Community Forum #44
7.00pm, Thursday, 27 May 2010
Bob Druitt Training Centre



Forum Attendees:

Ross Greenhalgh, Mike O'Neill, Dianna Bozzetto, Frank Barker, Paul Tooker, Ros Tooker, Brian Ross, Bruce Hunt, Col Chapman, John Feddersen, Kelvin Banks, Errol Page, Courtney Brown, Mellissa Case

Apologies:

Phil Campbell, Ron Heymer, Neil Lymberry, Allan Shaw, Dulcie Benn, Lewis Fellowes, Brian Whelan, Kevin Dyer, Frank Bowen

Agenda:

- Welcome and Introduction – Ross Greenhalgh
- Standing items:
 - Complaints database – Diana Bozzetto
 - Environmental Projects update – Mike O'Neill
 - Community activities – Mellissa Case
- Discussion items – John Feddersen
- CHAMP Program – Diana Bozzetto
- Red Mud Dam Re-organisation and Plan– Mike O'Neill
- Questions and answers – Ross Greenhalgh
- Meeting closes at 9pm

Minutes / Action	By Whom	By When
Minutes of the Forum meeting published in the Gladstone Observer, Community Advocate and on the QAL website.	Mellissa Case	27 June
Complaints Database – Diana Bozzetto		
<p>Presentation on community complaints including alkali, dust, noise and odour year to date. 58 complaints have been received with a large percentage (63%) relating to odour. There have been no noise or alkali complaints to date.</p> <p>In 2009 there were seven complaints when the thermal oxidiser was not operating. In terms of odour, there is a trend for more complaints during the summer months due to the prevailing wind at that time of year.</p> <p>Long term trends also show that alkali complaints have been decreasing which is in alignment with our monitoring results in Precipitation. Noise has not really changed and dust still remains a problem, particularly from the Island and Wharf areas.</p> <p>Tree planting has recommenced with the first planting session held in April. The target for 2010 is 2800 trees.</p>		
Environmental Projects Update – Mike O'Neill		

A summary of progress on major projects to reduce onsite emissions was provided.

Mike O'Neill has been appointed to the position of Manager – Residue and Environmental projects to specifically focus on new projects to further improve QAL's environmental performance in the areas of dust, odour, alkali and noise.

Odour

The thermal oxidiser is currently undergoing scheduled maintenance to maximize equipment performance on line time.

Relief Tanks

Relief tanks pose the biggest opportunity for odour reduction. Options currently under review to reduce odour from non condensables in steam include:

- Vapour Recompression
- Additional thermal oxidizer
- Ozone Treatment

Dust

A team has just returned from a visit to the Alcoa Shipping Terminal and the Worsley Shipping Terminal in Bunbury, Western Australia to look at modifications made to their cascade chute alumina loader. Investigations are underway to modify QAL's chute with a similar design.

Dust emissions at the wharf are measured by dust tracking devices. Dust monitors are also located near the cascade chute and video cameras are permanently positioned on the area. As discussed at previous forums, QAL has procedures in place to stop loading under certain conditions, however the challenge is to control events such as pockets of fine material during loading.

Gas suspension calciners

Work has been recently carried out to replace the baghouse air slides on units 1 and 3. The dust transport system is currently being replaced in unit three with commissioning late June.

Alkali

Currently investigating a number of options to further reduce alkali emissions from the precipitators. One of those options is to look at filling the tanks from the bottom rather than the top.

Environmental monitoring

The dust, noise and alkali monitoring network around site and community will be expanded this year. QAL is also currently looking at implementing online dispersion modelling, covering stack emissions, which will show live readings of odour and dust.

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<p>Coal QAL has changed the coal supplier back to Boundary Hill. The coal is not washed and due to the wet season the coal has been very damp recently.</p>		
<p>Community Activities – Mellissa Case</p>		
<p>Fourth year Electrical and Instrumentation Apprentice, Brenton Dau was announced as the QAL Apprentice of the Year. Fourth year Fitting and Turning apprentice Brendan Scanlan was awarded the Central State Fuels Apprentice Award.</p> <p>14 new apprentices began their new careers at QAL, along with one new valve bay trainee. With the new recruits now on board, there are currently 74 apprentices on site</p> <p>QAL has again provided \$10 000 of funding to eight local Reef Guardian Schools. Projects funded include revegetation projects, construction of a greenhouse for native seed propagation and establishment of edible gardens.</p> <p>QAL is now part of the Rio Tinto Community Fund, with Phil Campbell a member of the board. The fund is separate to QAL's community investment program, which remains at the same level.</p> <p>QAL's 2009 HSEC report was released in March. Available in both hard copy and online.</p> <p>The Quarterly Clean Up Day was held in April. QAL has adopted Wuttke Road in the community as a clean up area with 20 cubic metres of rubbish removed in a partnership with Gladstone Regional Council. Discussing options with Council to restrict general public access to the area.</p> <p>Upgrade of the QAL lookout will commence next month. No access to lookout during construction period which will be advertised in the media and on the QAL website.</p> <p>Crew of Queensland Weekender was on site to promote the Industry tours and Gladstone region. The program was aired on 27.02.2010.</p> <p>Gladstone Harbour festival was again a great success. QAL's Jazz and Shiraz was a complete sell out event, while QAL also participated in the raft race and festival parade.</p>		

Discussion items – John Feddersen

Maintenance Costs

Graph was shown of maintenance spending from 2000-2010, showing costs have not decreased and gradually increased (shown in dollars of the day). Forum members requested to see maintenance man hours comparison, production rate and constant dollars at next forum.

Ross
 Greenhalgh

Next forum

QAL Board has not declined any proposals for environmental improvement capital expenditure.

DERM Prosecution

The prosecution for the January 2009 incident is ongoing with no hearing date set at the moment. The charge was for creating serious environmental harm with a maximum fine of \$160 000.

Q1

QAL is currently working on the Q1 project which will take the plant into a first quartile operation. QAL's owners are looking for all their Bauxite and Alumina operations to be in first quartile to guard against market fluctuations. QAL is currently in second quartile and a team is currently working on a series of projects which were identified as opportunities for improvement.

RSPT

QAL is unable to comment on the impact of the Government's Resource Super Profits Tax (RSPT) as this is a matter for the owners.

QAL Expansion

QAL is unable to comment on debate over future expansion plans as this is a matter between the owners.

CHAG Update

DERM has advised that the CHAG report will be delayed by a month due to Queensland Health's analysis of results.

The report is based on a one year snapshot of data for 2009 only. DERM will be continuing with the monitoring program to gather data and will determine which monitoring stations will be continued.

Forum members discussed that the report needed to be carefully communicated so it was clearly understood what the results were. Also commented that people will question the results of the report if it gives a clean bill of health.

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<p>Odour Forum members were presented with a description of odour and its offensiveness levels. Forum members asked for a presentation on hedonic tone in relation to odour units at next forum.</p> <p>Emissions Trading Scheme Emissions trading scheme has been put on hold by the Government, however it is expected that it will come back in some form. Cogeneration is currently being considered by QAL to reduce carbon emissions with a feasibility study expected to be completed in Q4. If approved, construction would commence in 2014.</p>		
<p>CHAMP Program – Diana Bozzetto:</p>		
<p>GILG CHAMP program rolled out to employees at QAL and other GILG sites in November 2009. Over 150 ideas and projects submitted to date and some are already underway. The majority were around dust emissions and a case study was presented on reducing alumina emissions from a-frames. The next stage of the project will be the sharing of ideas between GILG sites.</p>		
<p>Red Mud Dam Re-organisation and Plan – Mike O’Neill:</p>		
<p>An update was provided on the current status of the dam.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cell C will be commissioned in July • High rainfall events created issues with clarifier which are being worked on before the next wet season. • Current height of dam is RL 22m – project completion is RL 40m • Mud expected into dam 1 next. • Preliminary work for conversion of dam 2 next year and actual conversion will be 2012. • Project capital cost is \$250M with around \$130M spent to date <p>Organise tour for forum members prior to end of year forum.</p>	<p>M. Case / M. O’Neill</p>	
<p>Meeting schedule:</p>		
<p>The next community forum will be held Wednesday 18 August (TBC)</p>		

Meeting closed: 9.00pm

Attachments:

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