

**CARE Forum**  
**Meeting held at Vales Point Power Station**  
**11 August 2009**

Community members: Chris Smith, Hans Trumm, Kevin Spencer, Peter Bates, Derek Zeitsch, Garry Prince, Marlene Norman, Jill Meechan, Coral Burnham, Steve Jackson

Delta attendees: Glenn Sharrock, Margaret Miller, Luke Edminson, Graduate Environmental Scientist.

Apologies: John McManus (retiring due to ill health), Bob Brooks.

**Issues for noting:**

CARE Forum members were welcomed. Luke Edminson was introduced as an Environmental Graduate. It was noted that Wayne Milner had retired and that Suzanne Laucht would become the new Environment Manager, Production Central Coast and that she would attend future meetings. The General Manager expressed his appreciation for Wayne's service to Delta and the CARE Forum and wished him well in retirement.

Glenn suggested the idea of introducing a Gregory's Map at the next meeting, the idea is to plot and locate the different members and the groups they represent.

Arising from May 13 CARE Forum meeting notes:

1. Query regarding fabric filter bags. It was noted that discussions are continuing about why the bags failed after 10,000 hours, when guaranteed for 32,000 hours. All bags have been replaced for one unit and will shortly be replaced for the second unit. Discussions with other parties continue.
2. Gas Turbines – testing planned for June. Query raised - did this go ahead? Presentation was scheduled later in meeting to update on Colongra.
3. Reference to the special briefing provided to CARE Forum members on the proposal to rehabilitate Munmorah Power Station. Some representatives have provided information to the Central Coast community network.

**Operational Report**

**Safety:** Delta is committed to a zero injury workplace and ensuring we can give our staff/contractors high confidence in the safety of working on plant. A new physical safety lockout system has recently been introduced which results in the application of locks onto an isolation point, whereas previously it was a red warning tag. A lock is applied by each person involved. Previous process for isolating was a paper based system which worked well but it could still be subject to "human error".

For over ten years, Delta has achieved a five star rating for safety under National Safety Council Australia recognition.

**Operations:** A year of record output at Vales Point. Record output in 2008/09. Previous record 1981/82, and record availability of 93% for 2008/09 which is world class. Demonstrates benefit of investment to ensure reliability of supply.

Despite high availability, profits were reduced because about 1600 MW capacity came into the NEM with a number of gas fired turbines which can start up quickly. As demand goes up, price goes up but as gas turbines come in, the price is deflated. Overall demand has gone up more slowly than predicted due to financial downturn. Munmorah will come in to service for a few months when Mt Piper is in outage or market opportunities exist.

**Colongra update:** Colongra comprises four gas turbines equivalent in total capacity to one unit at Vales Point. Due for commissioning and be available for the market at the end of August. Monitoring of noise and emissions is a requirement under the DECCW licence to operate Colongra. This facility will help reduce the carbon footprint as it has lower levels of carbon emissions compared with coal-fired generation.

**Coal deliveries:** Because of Munmorah's lower generation levels in the market, we are not running the conveyor or trucking coal to the station. Only trucks are those delivering fuel oil to Colongra. A small number of trucks are delivering coal from Chain Valley Bay mine to Vales Point using a small portion of Rutley's Road and therefore some impacts can arise. Some issues arose but improved monitoring now in place.

**Market update:** slide presentation provided.

**GenTrader presentation:** repeat of presentation made in July to community representatives as some could not make it.

**Carbon Capture project update:** The pilot project is demonstrating that it is possible to strip the CO<sub>2</sub> from the flue gases. NSW Department of Primary Industries is undertaking a program of drilling in different locations to test for suitable geological structures to store liquefied CO<sub>2</sub>.

## **Conclusion**

Glenn noted there was a lot of work going on and that specialist consultants are engaged to assist with different projects. For example, we currently have major studies underway on sea grasses and preparing the Environmental Assessment for the Munmorah Rehabilitation project.

## **Community Feedback**

Coral Burnham mentioned trucks coming from the ash dam were dropping soil and were previously doing U turns on a corner. When Delta was contacted, problem was resolved. Coral offered her thanks for resolving the issue and also for ensuring the trucks were washed. Thanks also offered to John Koller for presenting to committee.

Marlene Norman spoke at Precinct Committee meeting about Munmorah proposal. Some people were very interested.

Garry Prince noted interest in the community in Colongra operations due to noise concerns. Asked also about visual impact – can the stacks be seen? It was observed the stacks are lower in height than Munmorah's.

Kevin Spencer mentioned media reports of health issues arising from coal dust. It was noted that there was an EPA limit and we are below that. A presentation is to be prepared for next meeting on where the monitoring stations are for ambient dust monitoring. Mentioned coal unloader developments in the region that were being proposed could result in a flow on issue for Delta.

Hans Trumm noted, on behalf of Summerland Point, appreciation for assistance that Delta has given the area. Hans had earlier flagged his likely retirement at next meeting.

Next meeting – 5pm, 11 November 2009.

Actions Items:

- Map – to identify which areas are being represented in the region
- Presentation re ambient dust monitoring.
- Presentation re Sustainability