



T H R E E P L U S

Reputation + Brand + Relationships

Supplementary Report: Colton Mine Community Engagement

Northern Energy Corporation Limited

Third Community Information Session held at:

Aldershot Community Hall

29 April 2010

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1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Northern Energy Corporation Limited (NEC) through its wholly owned subsidiary Colton Coal Pty Ltd (Colton Coal) has applied for a Mining Lease to develop a small mine at Colton on a 1023 ha site, north of the city of Maryborough.

The proposed mine site is located in the immediate vicinity of a historical mining area which operated for over a century until the late 1990s.

NEC proposes to mine approximately five million tonnes of coking coal over a period of 8 - 10 years, based on the current assessment of the Project.

As part of an ongoing stakeholder engagement program, NEC met with more than 200 community members on 9 and 10 April at the Maryborough City Hall and Howard District Community Hall respectively to discuss the proposed Colton Coal Mine Project.

Through these two sessions and from NEC's meeting with some of the local Aldershot residents, NEC recognised that some residents wished for further discussion about the Project and had some concerns relating to the proposal.

Therefore in response, an additional third Community Information Session was organised at the Aldershot Community Hall on 29 April 2010 from 6 pm to 9 pm and was attended by approximately 54 people.

The purpose of this additional Community Information Session was to:

- Inform the local Aldershot community of the details of the proposed Colton Coal Mine Project
- Identify any community issues relating to the proposal
- Provide information directly - one on one

Through this session, NEC was able to communicate its project and business intentions to the people of Aldershot. It provided the locals with the opportunity to discuss their issues relating to the proposal directly with NEC representatives and to get their queries answered.

Approximately 51 community members registered at the Community Information Session in Aldershot. In addition, three people did not register but completed feedback forms confirming the total number of attendees to be approximately 54.

This Community Engagement Report details the arrangements and outcomes relating to supplementary session in Aldershot, including details of issues raised and the communications tools used to promote the event and capture feedback.

2 COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION

2.1 ATTENDANCE

Approximately 51 community members registered at the Supplementary Community Information Session organised in Aldershot on 29 April 2010. In addition, three people did not register but completed feedback forms confirming the total number of attendees to be approximately 54.

Attendees expressed their opinions either during direct discussion with project consultants or through the feedback forms which were made available (Summaries from Feedback Forms - **Section 8.2**)

Mr Keith Barker, Managing Director NEC presented the project information through a power point presentation to all the local residents attending the Community Information Session in the Aldershot Community Hall.

This was followed by a Question and Answer session, wherein Mr Mark Turner, Chief Operating Officer, NEC responded to questions raised by the community members. This session was effectively chaired by Mr Shane Kuhn.

Many had specific queries regarding project impacts such as noise and dust and its impact on health to which Mark Turner appropriately responded.

2.2 PROJECT INFORMATION

The Information day material (**Appendix 1**) presented to outline the mining lease application proposal included topics such as:

- The purpose of the day
- Community benefits
- Feedback/comment mechanisms
- The project team
- The region's historical past in coal mining
- Outline of the proposal
- Site location and layout
- Dust management
- Noise management
- Vegetation
- Water management
- Water table
- Coal transport
- Traffic
- Cultural heritage
- About Northern Energy Limited

2.3 PROJECT TEAM

The NEC project team present during the information session comprised key representatives from:

Northern Energy Corporation Limited (NEC)

- Keith Barker, Managing Director
- Mark Turner, Chief Operating Officer

2.4 FEEDBACK MECHANISMS

During and post the information session, NEC promoted a range of options for community members to provide comments or ask questions, including:

- NEC contact card
- Feedback forms
- A toll free 1800 number
- The project website with downloadable feedback form
- A project email address
- A project postal address
- Personal letters

During the Community Information Session, NEC distributed Contact Cards (**Appendix 2**) to attendees to promote availability of information on the project website along with details such as toll-free number, email address and postal address.

NEC also confirmed to the attendees that the Company has uploaded the Colton Mine project information, including Community Information Session posters and a list of Frequently Asked Questions and answers, on the company website:

www.northernenergy.com.au/projects/maryborough/community-consult.html

Provision was also made to enable the feedback form to be downloaded from the project website.

In the days after the Community Information Session, NEC wrote to all community members who registered an address at the information day to thank them for their attendance and to promote the availability of information on the project website and encourage feedback. (Attendee Letter - **Appendix 3**).

Letters were also issued to Aldershot residents who were unable to attend the Community Information Session and Aldershot registered home owners who do not live in Aldershot providing them with project details, to promote the availability of information on the project website and to encourage communication with the company, in case of further queries (Letter issued to Aldershot residents- **Appendix 4** and Letter issued to registered home owners – **Appendix 5**)

2.5 RESPONSES TO THE COMMUNITY

NEC has established a response protocol for the project to ensure that:

- All inquiries and comments are logged and documented
- Questions are forwarded to the relevant project member for a timely response (within 24 hours)
- Responses to community inquiries are logged and documented

3 STAKEHOLDER BRIEFINGS

In addition to the 13 stakeholder briefing meetings undertaken in April, NEC also organised and attended briefing meetings with Wide Bay Conservation Council and Channel 7 Wide-Bay Burnett.

- Wide Bay Conservation Council
 - Roger Currie, President
 - Emma Kate Currie, Regional Environment Co-ordinator
- Channel 7
 - Michelle Rattray, Fraser Coast correspondent

4 INFORMATION SESSION

4.1 LOCATION

The Community Information Session was held in Aldershot Community Hall, 2 Vaughan Street, Aldershot.

The site was a preferred location for a small meeting-style event and was convenient for community members.

4.2 LOGISTICS

Feedback forms (**Appendix 10**) were personally handed out to all the attending members and additional forms were placed on a designated table next to a secure collection box.

To ensure the safety of all attendees, the local Maryborough police were notified of the event. They were not required to attend any incident.

5 ATTENDANCE

5.1 RECORD OF ATTENDEES

Approximately 51 community members registered at the Community Information Session in Aldershot on 29 April 2010. In addition, three people did not register but completed feedback forms confirming the total number of attendees to be approximately 54.

The following table provides a breakdown of attendees by town or suburb of origin, as nominated on the attendance registration sheets (**Appendix 11**)

TOWN/SUBURB	ATTENDEE(S)
Aldershot	45
Maryborough	2
Burgowan	2
Takura	2
TOTAL	51

5.2 COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK - INFORMATION SESSIONS

Information Session attendees utilised the feedback form (**Appendix 10**) and personal exchanges with NEC's Colton mine project representatives to raise questions and provide feedback.

A total of eight feedback forms were received (as at 13 May 2010). These include two forms received during the community information session and six forms received later via mail/ fax.

Matters raised in these feedback forms have been summarised in **Section 8.2**.

One feedback form respondent has requested for his/her name and contact details to not be disclosed in this Community Engagement Report which will be provided to the Fraser Coast Regional Council.

Copies of completed feedback forms are presented in **Appendix 12**.

In addition, 51 feedback forms were received in one package post 13 May 2010 (last date for receiving feedback forms). Copies of these feedback forms are presented in **Appendix 13**.

Matters raised in the additional feedback forms received post 13 May 2010 have been summarised in **Section 8.3**.

6 PRE-EVENT

6.1 INFORMATION SESSION FLYER

Approximately 300 information day flyers were hand-delivered to letterboxes in the following areas in the week of 19 April 2010:

- Aldershot St
- Colton Rd
- Brugh St
- Dunn St
- Lenthall St
- Smelter St
- Rawson St
- Vaughan St
- Shiplick St
- Bronze St
- Herrenberg St
- Murray St
- Dyson St
- Gold St
- Emerald St
- Marshall Rd
- Sapphire St
- Ruby St
- Silver St

7 POST-EVENT

Following the Community Information Sessions, letters were mailed to community members thanking them for attending the session and directing them to information posted on the project website.

Letters were also issued to Aldershot residents who were unable to attend the session and to the registered owners of the houses in Aldershot who do not necessarily live in Aldershot informing them about the project, discussion and directing them to information posted on the project website.

Additional Questions and Answers on Issues such as coal dust, coal transport and impact on schools were prepared and uploaded to the NEC Colton Mine project website:

<http://www.northernenergy.com.au/projects/maryborough/community-consult.html>

7.1 MEDIA COVERAGE

The Colton mine project attracted some additional media coverage post the Community Information Session at Aldershot.

Clippings from print media are included in (**Appendix 14**).

In summary, the media coverage comprised:

DATE	PUBLICATION	POSITION
29/04/10	ABC Radio (Wide Bay)	
01/05/10	Fraser Coast Chronicle	Pg 7
06/05/10	WIN TV Wide Bay	
06/05/10	Fraser Coast Chronicle	Letter to Editor, Pg 18
07/05/10	Fraser Coast Chronicle	Letter to Editor, Pg 18
08/05/10	Fraser Coast Chronicle	Pg 17

8 COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

8.1 FEEDBACK FORMS

Visitors to the information session were encouraged to complete a feedback form on the day or to take a form(s) with them to return by post or fax at their convenience.

Eight feedback forms were received as at 13 May 2010 (Closing date for submitting feedback forms).

These include two forms received during the community information session and six forms received later via mail/ fax.

Issues recorded on the feedback forms will be used to identify information gaps and to capture the community's understanding, perceptions and attitudes towards various elements of the project. These have been summarised in **Section 8.2**

Copies of completed feedback forms are presented in **Appendix 12**.

In addition, 51 feedback forms were received in one package post 13 May 2010 (last date for receiving feedback forms). Copies of these feedback forms are presented in **Appendix 13**.

Matters raised in the additional feedback forms received post 13 May 2010 have been summarised in **Section 8.3**.

8.2 COMMENTS

The feedback forms identified a number of matters summarised* below:

THEME	ISSUE
Community Information Session and General positive comments	Thank you for putting on the additional information session on 29 April Session was very informative The facts presented made sense Its got to be of benefit to the area Aware that you have to work within the confines of DERM Wish the project the best of good fortunes Great prospects that my old house will only increase in value resulting from the mines present Like to express interest in gaining employment
Environmental Impacts	Concerns about project impact on air quality, noise emission, groundwater quality, surface water and waste management

THEME	ISSUE
Land Valuation	Concerned about land values declining due to the proposed mine and EPC lease over surrounding area
Transport	Transport of coal via Qld rail and resulting dust emissions in relation to Torbanlea State School
Mosquito	Concerned about mosquito control on site, dengue mosquito in particular
Health	Concerned about health impacts on people living within three kilometres from the mine in Aldershot Concerned about the impact of noise and dust on health The potential health effects should be carefully evaluated with a health impact assessment Against the mine due to health issues
General Opposition	We moved to Aldershot for the peace and quiet and the luxury of having tank water. I fear that this will change dramatically
Noise	Concerned about noise impacts
Dust	Concerned about dust impacts

* This summary is based on comments made in feedback forms (**Appendix 12**).

8.3 ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

The additional feedback forms received post 13 May 2010 identified matters summarised* below:

THEME	ISSUE
Water	Coal mine will impact ground water Water in our tanks will be contaminated
Environmental Impacts	Concerns about project impact on air quality, noise emission, groundwater quality, surface water and ground water
Land Valuation	Property prices will plummet

THEME	ISSUE
Transport	Transport of coal via Qld rail and resulting dust emissions in relation to Torbanlea State School where my child is studying
Employment	No locals will be employed
Health	Great concerns about impact on health Already suffer from respiratory disease, don't want the mine to aggravate my condition Health comes first
General Opposition	No Mine Mine too close to residential areas
Noise	Concerned about noise impacts Noise will impact us and cause distress to our animals
Dust	Coal dust travel miles when windy Coal dust will contaminate drinking water With the mine only 3 kms away, it is almost in our backyard
Blasting	Blastings will cause vibrations and possible structural damage

9 SUMMARY

To ensure community members had a good opportunity to access information on the proposed Colton mine project and in response to the request for additional information, a supplementary Community Information Session was organised in Aldershot.

This supplementary event like the previous two Community Information Sessions was widely promoted and was organised with appropriate notice to encourage good attendance.

All attendees were encouraged to complete feedback forms at the event.

Provision was also made to enable the feedback form to be downloaded from the project website.

Northern Energy has taken all steps to ensure that interested community members were and are able to access information, provide comments and receive responses to queries.

The Colton mine project information, including Community Information Session posters and a list of Frequently Asked Questions and answers are also available on the company website: <http://www.northernenergy.com.au/projects/maryborough/community-consult.html>

DISCLAIMER

This document has been developed to record the Community Information Session protocols, actions and results for Northern Energy's proposal to mine approximately 5 million tonnes of coking coal on a 1023 ha site, north of the city of Maryborough.

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