

Groundwater Community Liaison Committee (CLC)

Botany Groundwater Cleanup Project

Briefing Paper for Meeting on 15 June 2010

This paper aims to provide an update on the progress of Orica's Botany Groundwater Cleanup (BGC) Project, actions required of Orica, as well as other matters of interest to the CLC. Matters covered in this briefing paper are:

1. Groundwater Cleanup Plan Progress Report No. 26;
2. Voluntary Management Proposal Update;
3. Revision of Consolidated Human Health Risk Assessment;
4. Foreshore Road monitoring wells
5. Maintenance Works
6. Former ChlorAlkali Plant Mercury Investigations & Cleanup Update; and
7. Community Communication Update.

1 GROUNDWATER CLEANUP PLAN PROGRESS REPORT NO. 26

Progress Report No. 26 for the Groundwater Cleanup Plan was submitted to the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) on 31 May 2010. The Executive Summary of the Progress Report is included as Attachment A to this Briefing Paper.

2 VOLUNTARY MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL UPDATE

As the CLC is aware, the Notice of Clean Up Action (NCUA) is to be replaced with a Voluntary Management Proposal (VMP) to regulate the BGC Project. Orica has submitted a final VMP for DECCW approval in May.

The existing NCUA is referenced in the State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) 55 – Remediation of Land. The Department of Planning and DECCW have discussed the need for an amendment to this SEPP following implementation of the approved VMP to provide the ongoing statutory approvals framework under SEPP55 for work conducted in accordance with the approved VMP. In the meantime, the NCUA will need to remain 'active' until such time that an amendment to SEPP55 can be made.

If the VMP is approved and changes are made to the NCUA in time, the May 2010 Progress Report will be the last one reported against the NCUA. Reports summarising progress against the VMP will instead be provided starting in August 2010.

3 REVISION OF CONSOLIDATED HUMAN HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT

At the March CLC meeting, Orica reported that it aims to undertake a review of the Consolidated Human Health Risk Assessment (CHHRA) by June 2010. As agreed by DECCW, this review will now be completed by September 2010. The September date will allow for consideration of the Commonwealth Government's current review of the National Environment Protection Measures (NEPM). The NEPM outlines national objectives for protecting or managing particular aspects of the environment. Prof B Priestly, who will be reviewing the revised CHHRA as an Independent Monitoring Committee (IMC) task, is aware of the delay.

4 FORESHORE ROAD MONITORING WELLS

Orica is currently installing three new monitoring wells between the Secondary Containment Area (SCA) and Penrhyn Estuary to further assess hydraulic containment at the SCA. These locations were selected in response to a suggestion from Prof I Acworth of the IMC. In addition, progress on Sydney Ports redevelopment works adjacent to Foreshore Road has enabled Orica to commence the replacement of some old monitoring wells.

5 MAINTENANCE WORKS

PCA

An extensive maintenance and pipe work replacement program is scheduled for Southlands in late 2010 and early 2011. This program will include underbore refurbishment and maintenance, replacement of carbon steel pipe with seamless stainless steel pipe to prevent fouling and minimise maintenance in future. The cyclone fencing along McPherson Street will also be replaced with a sturdier wall and fence where required to prevent access and provide protection for the PCA pipeline.

SCA

Orica cleaned (or "pigged") the main pipes on the western end of the SCA in May. The underbore from Foreshore Road to Southlands and the PCA lines were pigged earlier in the year. This is a preventative maintenance measure which is required at times to ensure uniform pressure and groundwater extraction flow to maintain containment.

FORESHORE ROAD SAFETY BARRICADES

Orica maintenance works requires frequent access to the containment lines. For BIP Containment Line and PCA, this is simple as both are located on either Orica owned or BIP land. However, SCA is located on the median strip of a busy arterial road, which raises a number of safety and operational concerns. Orica met with the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) in May to discuss permanent options that will be suitable for both Orica workers and road users for years to come. KBR have been engaged to manage the design process and plans will be submitted to RTA for their approval shortly.

GROUNDWATER INJECTION AND RECOVERY (GIR)

Orica has been requested by DECCW to perform some bench scale anti fouling trials with the view to implement them in the Stage 2 trial shortly afterwards.

6 FORMER CHLORALKALI PLANT MERCURY INVESTIGATION & CLEANUP UPDATE

As the CLC is aware, mercury has been detected in soil at the site of the demolished former ChlorAlkali Plant (FCAP) at the Botany Industrial Park (BIP), and in groundwater both on and off the site. Orica plans to remove mercury from the bulk of the soil by excavating it and treating it using a soil washing technology, with the aim to render the site suitable for future industrial/commercial use. Orica aims to commence soil remediation in late winter.

To ensure worker and community safety, Orica will be managing air emissions during the remediation works. A temporary enclosure will be used to enclose the soil washing plant and the main excavation area in order to manage dust and vapour. Hot spots located off the main excavation area will also be excavated and treated in the soil washing plant. Detailed designing for the enclosure and necessary emission control systems are underway. A revision to the Environment Protection Licence (EPL2148) will likely be required to licence the emission points from the emission control system.

The Remediation Action Plan (RAP) was submitted to the DECCW accredited Site Auditor, Chris Jewell (C.M. Jewell & Associates), for review in late May. The Auditor's comments will be incorporated into the RAP before it is issued to DECCW.

Design Reviews for the soil washing plant and temporary emission control enclosure were conducted in late May, with a representative from Highlands Remediation Ltd (the Canadian soil washing contractor) attending. Further HAZOP (Hazard and Operability) studies will be conducted.

Orica continues to update workers on project progress. BIP staff briefings and further consultation with nearby residents and businesses in the lower Denison Street area will be undertaken soon.

7 COMMUNITY COMMUNICATION UPDATE

Consultation/Communication Forum attended by CLC members

Orica coordinated and supported the offer for CLC members to attend two consultation/communication forums run by the remediation industry associations in May. Several CLC members attended the events.

CLC Newsletter

No newsletter was issued during this reporting period as timing conflicted with the more urgent publishing of the HCB Community Participation and Review Committee's (CPRC) newsletter. At the March CLC meeting, the committee agreed to combine the CLC and CPRC newsletter to create one consolidated community newsletter focussing on all Orica Botany Transformation Projects. However, this idea was not supported by the CPRC and the first CLC newsletter for 2010 will be issued in June and distributed at the same time as the CPRC newsletter.

Website

Materials from the March 2010 CLC meeting and minutes from the December 2009 CLC Meeting were uploaded. Of the 2,876 visits to the Botany Transformation Projects website from 19 February to 24 May, 1,260 visits were to BGC Project pages.

E-mail Enquiry

There were two website email enquiries related to the BGC Project in this reporting period from students seeking further information on the project. No emails were received via the CLC feedback facility.

Newspaper Columns

Three newspaper columns have been published in the *Southern Courier* since the last quarterly Progress Report. A column was also published in the *St George and Sutherland Shire Leader* in March 2010.

1800 Number

Various calls were received from residents seeking to participate in Residential Bore Monitoring Program. There was also one call regarding the now finished Rainwater Tank Rebate Program.

Outreach Projects

BIP Site Tour

Orica held a site bus tour of its Botany Transformation Projects for the community on 19 April. 28 people attended, including representatives from the local community, the University of Western Sydney and DECCW.

Residential Bore Monitoring

Orica undertook residential bore monitoring at 11 locations in May 2010. Analysis is underway and results will be reported when they become available.

Botany Bay National Park

Flora survey and walking track projects at Botany Bay National Park that Orica has funded continue to progress.

Attachment:

- A. Executive Summary of the Groundwater Cleanup Plan Progress Report No. 26