



## HiCAL 40 Alternative Fuel Trial – Alcoa Anglesea

Questions we have responded to in relation to the alternative fuel trial through our community engagement activities include:

### **Why and how is this trial being conducted?**

The trial is being conducted as part of Alcoa's strategic sustainability targets to recycle or reuse 75% of remaining waste streams by 2020 and 100% by 2030. Additionally, the trial will determine if HiCAL40 can be a fuel source for the power station's boiler and identify a possible new use for this product. The Alcoa Anglesea alternative fuel trial will be undertaken under the framework of a robust technical and environmental, health and safety review process which has seen it operate safely for over 40 years.

### **Where is the HiCAL 40 coming to Anglesea from?**

The HiCAL40 product would come to Anglesea from an EPA licensed processing facility which is co-located at Alcoa's Point Henry smelter.

### **Where has the HiCAL 40 been stored until now?**

The HiCAL40 product is manufactured and stored at the processing facility which is co-located at Alcoa's Point Henry smelter.

### **Has testing been done to ensure emissions will not impact human health?**

Yes. Alcoa has received an EPA Research, Development and Demonstration (RD&D) permit to conduct this trial. As part of this permit extensive analysis, modelling and testing was required in order to demonstrate compliance with the State's strict ambient air guidelines that exist to protect the health of humans, flora and fauna. Modelling undertaken as part of this process took into consideration the whole of the Anglesea township and power station surrounds. Further testing is planned following the start of the trial to verify the modelling estimates.

**Will the fluoride levels emitted from Alcoa Anglesea increase as a result of the trial?**

Alcoa Anglesea is expecting a small increase in fluoride emissions during the trial. These emissions have been modelled by an independent consultant and indicate that levels will remain well below EPA guidelines, so no adverse impacts to human health, flora and fauna can be expected. These results will continue to be verified on an ongoing basis once the project is active and made available for review through Alcoa's existing community engagement processes and to other interested persons throughout the trial.

**Where can community members go if they have questions or concerns in relation to this project?**

Alcoa encourages community members with questions about any part of our process to contact us or join one of our existing community engagement forums. Please contact the Community Relations Officer on 03 5263 4249 or via email [angleseaps@alcoa.com.au](mailto:angleseaps@alcoa.com.au) to find out more. Updates on the trial will be provided throughout the project and can be viewed at [www.alcoa.com.au/anglesea](http://www.alcoa.com.au/anglesea).

**Update - July 16, 2010 Project Status "on-hold".****Has the trial started?**

No, the trial has not started. The current status is 'on hold' while Alcoa continues its review into a range of technical and environmental, health and safety (EHS) aspects of the project.

**When is the new start date?**

No firm start date has been agreed to with the Victorian EPA while the review continues.

**Will community consultation continue and will community information about the trial be available?**

Yes. Alcoa encourages community members with questions about the Alternative Fuel Trials or any part of our process to contact us or join one of our existing community engagement forums. Please contact the Community Relations Officer on 03 5263 4249 or via email [angleseaps@alcoa.com.au](mailto:angleseaps@alcoa.com.au) to find out more.

### **Update – August 2, 2010 Project Status “on-hold”.**

#### **When was the trial scheduled to start?**

The trial received approval from the EPA via a Research Development and Demonstration application in May 2010. This enabled an 18 month window in which to conduct a 12 month trial, with a completion date of November 2011.

#### **The trial was set to start in August - what has caused the trial to be put on hold?**

The alternative fuel trial was originally intended to start in the second half of 2010, but it is not yet active and remains on-hold while we continue a review into a range of technical and environmental, health and safety (EHS) aspects of the project.

Alcoa remains keen to undertake alternative fuel trials and play our role in identifying and investigating projects to complement Alcoa's strategic sustainability targets around conserving resources, sustaining operations and reducing waste and greenhouse gas emissions, but a firm start date for this particular project has not been discussed or agreed to with the Victorian EPA while the review continues.

#### **What needs to be checked before the trial can go ahead?**

The details being covered by the review include further, independent sampling of the HiCal 40 product and an investigation into a data error discovered during a management review. The data error was found in a consultant's report and suggests that the levels of HiCal 40 (originally proposed as replacing 0.5% of the coal input to the boiler) may need to be modified to deliver the emissions profile reported in the plans submitted to the EPA for the Research, Development and Demonstration (RD&D) permit to conduct the trial. The modified level of fuel replacement has not been determined or discussed with the EPA while the review is underway.

#### **Why was this picked up now and not earlier?**

Whilst it is disappointing to have found the error, the finding demonstrates the robustness of Alcoa's project management and review processes.

Throughout the communication of this project Alcoa has maintained that if any anomalies were found it would be put on hold until these were further understood and remedied.

Alcoa's decision to put the project on hold indefinitely is consistent with this commitment.

### **What community consultation and information has occurred on the project?**

Alcoa is deeply concerned by the suggestion that the health of any person could be at risk as a result of the proposed trial. The alternative fuel trial- or any change to the power station process- will only ever proceed under the framework of the same robust technical and environmental, health and safety review process which has seen us operate safely in the Anglesea community for over 40 years.

Community information on the alternative fuel trial was first provided in 2008 and has been discussed four times at our bi-monthly Community Consultation Network (CCN) meetings with a one hour project update given at our last meeting on June 7. These meetings are advertised in the Surf Coast Times one week prior to occurring and are open to anyone in the community. The meeting minutes and agendas are distributed to 55 registered email addresses, including a broad range of local stakeholders such as councillors, community groups and residents.

In regards to further communication and consultation on this issue we have undertaken the following:

- Continuing, direct dialogue with the Anglesea Primary School and School Council
- Offers to local stakeholder and residents to meet with management representatives to discuss the project
- Direct email to 130 key Anglesea stakeholders (groups and individuals) was sent on July 10 with key details and links to the internet description of the project
- The current status of the project was covered in our annual briefing with the Surf Coast Shire (councillors and executive present) on July 14

It is our commitment to keep community members informed on the status of the trial and other matters of interest. We have a number of existing communication processes to utilise to further profile the project as follows::

- The quarterly edition of Alcoa Anglesea News (published end August – distributed to 300 registered recipients and published on our website)
- Advertorial in the local community newsletter News Angle (published end September and delivered to all households with a letterbox in Anglesea and Aireys Inlet as well as central township locations)
- Upcoming CCN meeting (2 August) which is advertised in the Surf Coast Times (circulation 10,000) as part of our bi-monthly advertorial (ran July 27) that is also published on our website.

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- The project was also profiled in Alcoa's national e-newsletter published on July 26. This is distributed to 1100 registered email addresses and posted on the company website.

### **Update – August 5, 2010 Project Status “Cancelled”.**

#### **Why did you cancel the project?**

The discovery of a data error during a management review meant the project had officially been on-hold for a number of weeks.

The continuation of the review into the data error indicated that a range of new and unplanned design modifications would be required for us to deliver Alcoa's sustainability objectives for this project.

Community and stakeholder input has also been considered when making the decision to cancel the project.

#### **What modifications would have been required for the project to go ahead?**

A number of new and further studies would have been required to verify the technical perimeters of the project. This would have taken a number of months and the original design was no longer viable.

The feedback we received from our community and other stakeholders indicated that the sooner we were able to communicate a decision on this project, the sooner we would be able to resolve the uncertainty for them.

#### **What role did community input play in your decision to cancel the project?**

Community consultation is a critical part of the way Alcoa does business. In Anglesea, we have run a bi-monthly community meeting with an open door policy for over 9 years now. We conducted a range of consultation activities on this project, leading up to a public meeting on August 2.

Community and stakeholder consultation suggested the sooner we were able to communicate a decision on this project, the sooner we would be able to resolve any uncertainty.

### **Will you continue to consult with the Anglesea community?**

Yes. Community consultation is a key component of our business model. We have a number of ways people can engage with us and encourage people to contact our Community Relations Officer on 03 5263 4249 or via [angleseaps@alcoa.com.au](mailto:angleseaps@alcoa.com.au) in the first instance.

### **There were a number of questions submitted as part of the community consultation process. Will Alcoa still respond to these?**

Alcoa has commenced a communication program to advise stakeholders of the decision to cancel the trial and thank them for their input to the consultative process.

We will continue to respond to questions people submitted during the community consultative process.