

Fact Sheet: Mine Technical Review and Analysis Process

Introduction

Consistent with the approved Anglesea Mine Work Plan (Work Plan), Alcoa will initiate a variety of technical review and assessment activities. These activities, based on the current mine status, will analyse and validate the technical feasibility of the various concepts used to develop the final detail to be set out in the Mine Rehabilitation and Closure Plan (Mine Closure Plan).

Once the following technical assessments have been completed, in parallel with the stakeholder engagement process, a revised Mine Closure Plan will be submitted to Earth Resources Regulation of the State Government's Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR) for approval.

Mine Closure Plan

The current Mine Closure Plan, anticipating closure in 2061, generally depicts all high batters being completely filled and redeveloped into rehabilitated slopes that feed down to a void and valley system. A potential option for closure is to convert the mining void into a lake, which potentially could provide flow to the Anglesea River.

Comprehensive Risk Assessment

A comprehensive assessment will identify a full range of risks and potential outcomes associated with the mine's rehabilitation and closure in order to ensure any environment, health and safety standards are met. Importantly long term assessment of fire risk, as identified in the Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry, will be a key consideration in the final detail for mine rehabilitation and closure.

Geotechnical Assessment

Ensuring there is a long term safe and stable outcome for future generations is critical. Technical assessment of final physical slope stability, fill material properties, changes to water level, water tables, potential lake, etc, will be undertaken.

Hydrological and Hydrogeological Assessments

The current conceptual closure plan depicts Salt Creek being diverted into a lake system and then decanted off, through a valley system, to join into Marshy Creek before becoming the Anglesea River. A hydrological assessment will be completed to determine both short and long term groundwater impacts and to inform the subsequent hydrogeological work. A hydrogeological assessment is required to further understand all water impacts inclusive of mine slope stability underwater and any potential lake and river chemistry impacts.

Updated: 7 December 2015

Revegetation Assessment

It is conceptually envisaged that much of the disturbed mining area will be rehabilitated to a diverse, self-sustaining, healthy woodland ecosystem as depicted in the current Work Plan. Additional research and investigation will be completed to establish how this is best completed and the implications of doing so. Such land use could be conservation, recreation and other natural values utilising current rehabilitation practices and procedures developed and implemented over the life of the mine's operation.

Approximately 200 hectares of disturbed mining area requires rehabilitation. As there is no available topsoil suitable for direct return to this amount of area, a substitute or manufactured soil mix may be required, dependent on final details. A further understanding of the potential to supplement this material with leaf litter or seed harvesting materials collected from within the Anglesea Heath area will be developed.

Closure Criteria

All rehabilitated land will be monitored to ensure rehabilitation and closure details are met. The closure or completion criteria will ensure that agreed standards for rehabilitation, safety and stability have been achieved, inclusive of any additional criteria agreed to during stakeholder engagement processes. This information will be made available to the community and subject to independent audit.

Decommissioning

Facilities and equipment will be progressively removed from the mine site, unless some of the infrastructure is of use to other potential land holders or the public. Any items left will require approval from the relevant authority or regulator.

Further detail

- Power Station and Mine Rehabilitation Overview Fact Sheet
- Mine Rehabilitation and Closure Plan Fact Sheet
- Power Station Decommissioning and Remediation Fact Sheet
- Stakeholder Engagement Fact Sheet
- Anglesea Mine Work Plan