



Licence Number	L8193/2007/3
Licence Holder	Talisman Nickel Pty Ltd
ACN	601 140 185
File Number:	2010/011722-1~1
Premises	Sinclair Nickel Mine M37/1275 and L37/175 Leonora WA 6438 As depicted in Schedule 1
Date of Amendment	18 April 2019

Amendment

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) has amended the above Licence in accordance with section 59 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act), as set out in this Amendment Notice. This Amendment Notice constitutes written notice of the amendment in accordance with section 59B(9) of the EP Act.

Tim Gentle
MANAGER, RESOURCE INDUSTRIES
REGULATORY SERVICES

an officer delegated under section 20 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (WA).

Amendment Notice

This amendment is made pursuant to section 59 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) to amend the Licence issued under the EP Act for a prescribed premises as set out below. This notice of amendment is given under section 59B(9) of the EP Act.

This notice is limited to a minor amendment to reduce the frequency of groundwater monitoring for the Sinclair Nickel Operation, during care and maintenance only.

No changes to other aspects of the original Licence have been requested by the Licence Holder.

The following guidance statements have informed the decision made on this amendment:

- *Guidance Statement: Regulatory Principles* (July 2015)
- *Guidance Statement: Setting Conditions* (October 2015)
- *Guidance Statement: Decision Making* (February 2017)
- *Guidance Statement: Environmental Siting* (November 2016)

Amendment history

Table 2 provides the amendment history for W4359/2007/1 or L8193/2007/3.

Table 1: Works approval and Licence amendments

Instrument	Issued	Amendment
W4359/2007/1	07/09/2007	Works approval for construction of sewage ponds and dewatering infrastructure. The sewage ponds now operate under R1967/2008/1
W4385/2007/1	31/01/2008	Works approval for construction of Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) and Processing Plant
L8193/2007/1	17/10/2008	New application
L8193/2007/2	13/10/2011	Licence re-issue
W5346/2013/1	21/02/2013	Works approval for TSF embankment lift
L8193/2007/3	25/09/2014	Licence re-issue
L8193/2007/3	29/10/2015	Licence transfer
L8193/2007/3	29/04/2016	Amended expiry date by DWER
L8193/2007/3	April 2019 (this Amendment)	Amendment Notice 1 to reduce TSF groundwater monitoring from quarterly to annually during care and maintenance activities.

Amendment description

The Sinclair Nickel Mine has been on care and maintenance since September 2013, and there are currently no immediate plans to recommence operations at the site. Talisman Nickel Pty Ltd applied for this amendment to their Licence on 6 August 2018.

As per the conditions of the Licence, the TSF is lined with a high density polyethylene (HDPE) 1.5mm thick liner which controls any potential seepage. The ponds are also required to maintain a freeboard of 500mm to prevent overflow.

No tailings are discharged to the TSF during care and maintenance. As reported in the latest Annual Environmental Report (AER), groundwater levels and water quality of the bores surrounding the TSF have remained stable. No environmental incidents or exceedances occurred during the latest AER reporting period.

During the period that the site is on care and maintenance, Talisman Nickel Pty Ltd have requested that the monitoring required under Condition 3.4.1 in Table 3.4.1 – monitoring of five TSF groundwater bores - is reduced in frequency from quarterly to annually.

Decision

A reduction in TSF groundwater monitoring from quarterly to annually, during care and maintenance periods only, is approved.

Licence Holder controls for groundwater monitoring are conditioned on the Licence to ensure that no discharge from the TSF is occurring. Monitoring results provided in the amendment application indicate that the HDPE liner is intact, with a low risk of seepage and/or groundwater mounding from the TSF.

As no tailings are discharged to the TSF during care and maintenance, and groundwater monitoring indicates there is no impact on groundwater from the TSF, a reduction in TSF groundwater monitoring only during the care and maintenance period is approved. Quarterly groundwater monitoring at the TSF would still be required if/when operations recommences, as per the requirements of the existing Licence.

Table 3.4.1 of Condition 3.4.1 has been amended to include annual TSF groundwater monitoring during care and maintenance, and modified to specify quarterly monitoring during operations.

Licence Holder's comments

The Licence Holder was provided with the draft Amendment Notice on 19 April 2019. Comments received from the Licence Holder have been considered by the Delegated Officer as shown in Appendix 2.

Amendment

The Licence duration is 19 October 2026, as per the DWER Amendment Notice issued 29 April 2016.

1. **Table 3.4.1** of Condition **3.4.1** of the Licence is amended by the insertion of the red text shown below:

Table 3.4.1: Monitoring of ambient groundwater quality					
Monitoring point reference and location	Parameter	Units	Limit	Averaging period	Frequency
TSFMB01	Standing water level ¹	mbgl	4	Spot sample	- Quarterly during operations - Annually during care and maintenance
TSFMB02	pH ²	N/A	N/A		
TSFMB03	Total dissolved solids (TDS)	mg/L			
TSFMB04					
TSFMB05	Electrical conductivity	µS/cm			

2. The Licence Holder's registered business address is amended from the address below:

~~Ground Floor
6 Centro Avenue
SUBIACO WA 6008~~

To the new address below:

~~Level 11
2 Mill Street
PERTH WA 6000~~

Appendix 1: Key documents

	Document title	In text ref	Availability
1	Licence L8193/2007/3 – Sinclair Nickel Mine and Operations	L8193/2007/3	accessed at www.dwer.wa.gov.au
2	Licence Amendment L8193/2007/3 Attachment 3A: Supporting Documentation on Proposed Activities	L8193/2007/3	DWER records (A1709580)
3	DER, July 2015. <i>Guidance Statement: Regulatory Principles</i> . Department of Environment Regulation, Perth.	DER 2015a	accessed at www.dwer.wa.gov.au
4	DER, October 2015. <i>Guidance Statement: Setting Conditions</i> . Department of Environment Regulation, Perth.	DER 2015b	
	DER, November 2016. <i>Guidance Statement: Decision Making</i> . Department of Environment Regulation, Perth.	DER 2016a	
5	DER, November 2016. <i>Guidance Statement: Environmental Siting</i> . Department of Environment Regulation, Perth.	DER 2016b	

Appendix 2: Summary of Licence Holder comments

The Licence Holder was provided with the draft Amendment Notice on 17 April 2019 for review and comment. The Licence Holder responded on 18 April 2019 waiving the comment period. The following comments were received on the draft Amendment Notice:

Condition	Summary of Licence Holder comment	DWER response
N/A	Licence expiry	An amended expiry date was issued by DWER on 29 April 2016. This extended the Licence to 19 October 2026. This has been more clearly stated in this Licence Amendment Notice.
N/A	Update registered address	Address updated from Subiaco to Perth address.