



Application for a licence amendment

Division 3, Part V *Environmental Protection Act 1986*

Licence number	L4706/1972/17
Licence holder	Electricity Generation and Retail Corporation T/A Synergy
ACN	N/A
File number	DER2014/002968-1
Premises	Muja Power Station Muja Power Station Road COLLIE WA 6225 Legal description - Being Lot 5192 on Plan 213624, part Lot 4903 on Plan 167984, Lot 1 on Diagram 53100 and portion of State Forest 24
Date of report	1/07/2021
Decision	Amended licence granted

1. Amendment

This amendment is made pursuant to section 59 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) to amend licence L4706/1972/17 issued under the EP Act for the Muja Power Station.

This amendment is limited only to category 53. No changes to the aspects of the licence relating to categories 12, 52 or 61 have been requested by the licence holder.

In completing the assessment documented in this report, the department has considered and given due regard to its regulatory framework and relevant policy documents which are available at <https://dwer.wa.gov.au/regulatory-documents>.

1.1 Amendment description

On 27 May 2021 Electricity Generation and Retail Corporation T/A Synergy (licence holder) submitted an application to amend licence L4706/1972/17 for the Muja Power Station (MPS).

The licence holder is seeking approval to:

- allow bottom ash to be stored in the concrete lined coal storage area;
- change air monitoring Australian Standard from AS 3580.9.8 to AS 3580.9.11 for CPS1;
- remove groundwater monitoring bore MB7B from the licence; and
- increase monthly reporting times from 14 to 30 days.

1.2 Background

MPS is a coal-fired thermal power station located south-east of the town of Collie and began operation in 1966. It consists of four power generating units arranged in pairs (labelled-C and D with a combined capacity of 854 MW). MPS typically operates as a base load plant and is capable of producing up to one fifth of the electricity requirements of the South West region.

Coal is transported from nearby coal mines to the site via trucks and along an overland conveyor belt. The coal is deposited in live stockpiles, and then transported into the station mills via bunkers and conveyor belt systems. Air for combustion is supplied by a rotary air heater supplying two separate systems, the primary and secondary air. The boilers are forced circulation type, designed to burn coal. Heat from combustion is converted to superheated steam and then mechanical energy via a steam turbine in Stage C, and a larger turbine in Stage D.

The stacks from units C and D are 151 m tall and are fitted with Electrostatic Precipitators.

2. Decision

The licence holder has applied to amend the licence to allow for the storage of the bottom ash in the concrete lined coal stockpile area to allow for its future use. The area the bottom ash is to be stored is concrete lined and banded. Stormwater from the area is directed to the sites contained stormwater drainage network.

The storage of bottom ash in the concrete lined C5 storage is to allow for its potential future use and does not pose a risk to the environment as there is no pathway to the environment with any contaminated stormwater from the storage area being treated and evaporated through the sites existing water treatment infrastructure.

The change in Australian Standard from AS 3580.9.8 to AS 3580.9.11 for CPS1 is to reflect the current Australian standard of BAM methodology from TEOM methodology.

The licence holder has applied to remove monitoring bore 7B as it has been consistently dry for the last five years as reported in the annual reports and other bores located in the vicinity would be able to detect a breach of containment.

The licence holder has applied to increase the monthly reporting timeframes to allow more flexibility and it does not change the risk profile from the premises.

The Delegated Officer has determined to grant amended licence L4706/1972/17. This decision takes into account the amendments do not change the risks of impacts from emissions and discharges from the premises, distance to sensitive receptors and proposed applicant controls being generally appropriate and commensurate with the risk assessment outcomes to maintain an acceptable level of risk to the environment during operation of the proposed infrastructure.

Current regulatory controls including the current licence conditions have been determined to be sufficient to manage the risk to the environment consistent with the departments *Guidance Statement: Setting conditions*, to specify infrastructure design, and operation requirements to ensure the proposal does not result in unacceptable risks to the environment.

3. Consultation

Table 1 provides a summary of the consultation undertaken by the department.

Table 1: Consultation

Consultation method	Comments received	Delegated Officer comments
Local government authority advised of proposal (3/2/2021)	No comments received.	N/A
Licence holder provided with draft decision for comment (24/06/2021)	Email received 25 June 2021 advising no comments to make and waiving remainder of comment period	N/A

4. Conclusion

Based on this assessment, it has been determined to amend the existing licence, subject to conditions commensurate with the determined controls and necessary for administration and reporting requirements.

4.1 Summary of amendments

Table 2 provides a summary of the proposed amendments and will act as a record of implemented changes. All proposed changes have been incorporated into the revised works approval as part of the amendment process.

Table 2: Summary of amendments to existing licence conditions

Condition number	Amendments
Definitions	Definition for AS 3580.9.11 added to definitions
1.3.1	The pre-existing C5 containment area added to Table 1.3.1 for the storage of coal feed stock (already occurring) and for bottom ash
3.4.1	Table 3.4.1 updated to change AS 3580.9.8 to AS 3580.9.11
3.4.7	Table 3.4.4 updated to remove MB7B from quarterly and monthly monitoring
4.2.1	Table 4.2.1 updated to change 5.2.3 to 4.2.3 for the format for point source to air monitoring raw data
4.2.4	Table 4.2.2 updated by changing monthly monitoring to be submitted 30 days after reporting period
Schedule 1	Map of ambient groundwater monitoring locations amendment to remove MB 7B

References

1. Department of Environment Regulation (DER) 2016, *Guideline: Environmental Siting*, Perth, Western Australia.
2. DER 2017, *Guideline: Risk Assessments*, Perth, Western Australia.
3. DER 2015, *Guidance Statement: Setting Conditions*, Perth, Western Australia.
4. DWER 2019, *Guideline: Decision making*, Perth, Western Australia.