



Application for licence amendment

Division 3, Part V *Environmental Protection Act 1986*

Licence number	L5245/1967/14
Licence holder	Alcoa of Australia Limited
ACN	004 879 298
File number	2010/007402
Premises	Kwinana Alumina Refinery Hogg Road NAVAL BASE WA 6394
Date of report	18 July 2022
Status of report	Final

Amendment description

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

This amendment is limited to changing the location of an ambient dust monitoring station, in addition to other administrative changes to update the licence that do not alter the obligations of 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 <http://dwer.wa.gov.au/regulatory-documents>.

Purpose and scope of assessment

Alcoa of Australia Limited (Alcoa) holds licence L5245/1967/14 for operation of the Kwinana Alumina Refinery. Alcoa lodged an application to amend the existing licence on 1 October 2022 to relocate a dust monitoring station, remove redundant conditions for completed construction works, and extend the licence duration.

Relocation of ambient dust monitor

The existing 'Residue West' dust monitoring station is located on Lot 171 on Plan 180286 and is one of six ambient air monitoring stations in the vicinity of the bauxite residue storage areas (RSA's) located about 5 km east of the refinery site. The monitoring stations are primarily for measuring particulate levels attributed to bauxite residue lift off from the RSA's.

The property owner of Lot 171 has recently terminated Alcoa's lease and has requested the monitoring station be removed, as the land has been subdivided for sale. Alcoa proposes to relocate the monitoring station about 400 m southwest of the existing location, within a portion of the McLaren Avenue road reserve, which it considers to be the nearest representative location with 240V mains power connection that also complies with the siting requirements of AS 3580.1.1 (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Proposed relocation of Residue West monitoring station.

Removal of redundant conditions

A spillway was installed on the cooling pond within the RSA under a previous licence amendment, dated 10 December 2019. It consists of a concrete structure superimposed over the existing pond liner, to allow for the controlled discharge of contaminated stormwater and minimise the risk of embankment failure, in the event of a 1% Annual Exceedance Probability flood event.

Construction of the spillway was completed in 2020 and a compliance report was submitted on 4 September 2020. The completed works have been certified by suitably qualified engineer against the specified location, construction requirements, discharge points and maintenance and operation requirements post construction (such as freeboard, storage volumes, visual monitoring, physical and chemical parameters).

Given the above, Alcoa is seeking the removal of conditions AW1 – AW3 and related attachment 3 of the existing licence.

Licence duration

Alcoa is seeking an extension to the expiry date of the existing licence, which is due to expire on 2 September 2022.

Decision

The delegated officer considers the proposed changes relate to monitoring requirements and administrative aspects of the existing licence and do not change the assessed risk profile of emissions and discharges from the premises. Therefore, the existing risk assessment for the premises has not been revisited as part of this application.

Relocation of ambient dust monitor

It is noted Alcoa no longer has land access to the existing Residue West monitoring station site, nor is continued monitoring at the site considered ideal due to vandalism and localised dust related to sale preparations for Lot 171.

The delegated officer considers the proposed relocated site is suitable for ensuring representative air quality monitoring west of the RSAs. Alcoa has a land lease agreement in place with the City of Kwinana, whom the subject land is vested in, and being an existing developed road reserve, provides longer term certainty for Alcoa.

The new site has been assessed by a third-party auditor on behalf of Alcoa and has been found to comply with the siting requirements of AS 3580.1.1.

The maps in Schedule 1 of the licence have been updated to effect this change.

For noting: a licence amendment was issued to Alcoa in October 2019 for relocating the 'Residue North East' monitoring station in similar circumstances. This ensures consistency with this previous decision.

Removal of redundant conditions

The delegated officer has reviewed the September 2020 compliance report submitted for the completed spillway and is satisfied the works have been completed in accordance with the relevant licence conditions.

Conditions AW1 – AW3 and Attachment 3 of the existing licence have therefore been removed.

Licence duration

The delegated officer notes the existing licence has been renewed and/or extended several times and comprises a set of conditions that predates the department's current regulatory framework.

The existing licence is due to expire in September 2022, in which an application for a licence renewal is typically required to be made to replace the expiring licence prior to the expiry date.

The department recognises that sensitive receptors and pathways can change over extended licence periods and therefore it is important that when renewing a licence, it is reviewed for its currency to ensure the environmental impact, as previously assessed by the department, has not materially changed.

However, the delegated officer notes there would be insufficient time for the department to conduct a proper review of the currency of the existing licence before it expires, therefore it is appropriate to extend its duration by a further 2 years.

In making this determination, Alcoa should note the department intends on sending a letter 12 months before the new expiry to advise of the approaching expiry date, and it will be expected that a licence renewal application will be submitted well in advance of the new expiry date. It will also be expected that prior to submitting an application, Alcoa has sufficient information to satisfy themselves that their environmental impact, as previously assessed by the department, has not materially changed, or additional information is provided to support any meaningful changes to operations under the licence or to the emissions from the premises or to the environment around the premises.

Consultation

The licence holder was provided with drafts of the amended licence and this report for comment on 4 May 2022. Comments were received on 25 May and 15 July 2022 and sought clarification and corrections on proposed changes to the premises' legal land description and the assessed design capacities for each of the prescribed categories subject to the licence. The delegated officer considered the comments and has made changes where relevant.

Conclusion

The delegated officer has determined to amend the existing licence, subject to conditions commensurate with the determined controls and necessary for administration and reporting requirements.

Summary of amendments

The below table provides a summary of the proposed updates and will act as a record of implemented changes. All proposed changes have been incorporated into the amended licence.

Condition / table	Description
Cover page	Expiry date extended to 2 September 2024.
	Table of prescribed categories added to clearly indicate what prescribed activities are being conducted on the premises, including assessed design capacities.
Licence history	Added, consistent with current DWER licence format.
Interpretation and note	Added as administrative change, consistent with current DWER licence format.
AW1 – AW3	Works conditions relating to the construction of a spillway on the RSA cooling dam have been removed.
Attachments	Attachment 3 (dust monitoring locations) has been updated to include the new location of the Residue West station and its coordinates.
	Attachment 8 (spillway design and authorised works) has been removed.

**MANAGER, PROCESS INDUSTRIES
REGULATORY SERVICES**

An officer delegated by the CEO under section 20 of the EP Act