

Mortlake Power Station Project

Community Newsletter

No 4 November 2005

The Environment Effects Statement (EES), proposed planning scheme amendment, works approval and pipeline permit applications will be on exhibition for public comment from 17 November 2005.

This newsletter provides details on the public submission process and answers to commonly asked questions.

Background

This is the fourth in a series of newsletters to keep you informed of Origin Energy's progress in gaining approvals to construct a gas-fired power station with a capacity of approximately 1000MW, 12km west of the township of Mortlake, and a 78km gas pipeline from the Otway Gas Plant to the proposed site.



Further inspection and refinement of the pipeline route was undertaken in August to avoid or minimise any impacts to native flora and fauna.

Progress on approvals

The following project activities and milestones were achieved during the period August to October 2005:

- Community Information Days were held in Mortlake on 10 August and Timboon and Garvoc on 11 August
- meetings of the Technical Reference Group (TRG), formed under the lead of the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) to oversee the EES process, were held in Geelong on 7 September and Camperdown on 6 October
- the EES was drafted and finalised for public exhibition.

Project name change

In recent months, many of Origin Energy's contacts within the community and government have been informally referring to the project as the 'Mortlake Power Station Project'. Origin Energy (Origin) has therefore chosen to formally align the project name with the name that is most commonly used by the public.

Timeline

Indicative earliest possible timing for construction if project approval is received

Q4 2005

EES exhibited
Public comment period
Information sessions held
Newsletter 4

Q1 2006

Public submissions reviewed
Newsletter 5

Q2 2006

Independent panel enquiry
Assessment report

Q2 2006

Issue of works approval, Planning Scheme Amendment, Pipeline Permit
Newsletter 6

Commence detailed tender process

From Q4 2006

Complete detailed tender process
Origin Board of Directors decision to commit to capital cost of the project

If Board decides to proceed, Origin to assign tenders

Community involvement

Thank you to the people of Mortlake, Timboon, Garvoc and surrounding areas who attended our August Community Information Days. Your feedback has been greatly appreciated.

Commonly asked questions included:

- what types of employment and contract opportunities would be associated with the proposed power station and pipeline construction?
- if the project receives approval, how long will the construction take?
- what will the proposed power station look like?

Answers are provided in this newsletter.



Project representatives and specialist consultants were on hand to discuss the results of environmental studies.



Project Manager, Geoff Burns, discussing the project with Eddie Vale of Mortlake.

What types of employment and business opportunities would be generated?

The construction of the proposed power station and pipeline would require a peak workforce of approximately 400. Recruitment of the construction workforce would be the responsibility of the contractors engaged to build the power station and pipeline.

The wide variety of skills, trades and services associated with the project would include:

Site preparation, excavation & foundations

Plant operators
Carpentry
Reinforcing
Concreting



Mechanical erection (steel structures and installation of equipment)

Riggers
Crane operators
Metal fabrication
Welding (general & specialist)
Fitters (mechanical)
Trades Assistant

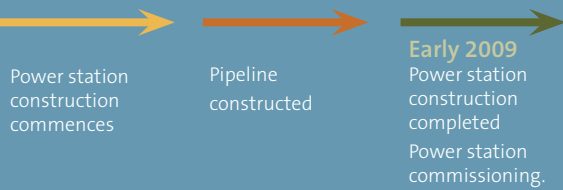
Electrical Installation (Low & high voltage electrical work)

Electricians
HV specialists
Fitters (electrical)
Instrument technicians
Trades Assistant

In addition there would be a requirement for general hands, clerical and office staff, truck drivers, couriers and the provision of services to the proposed workforce accommodation camp, including caterers, cleaners and transport.

For the construction of the gas pipeline, experienced gas pipeline crews would undertake the specialist welding, drilling and supervision. Expected opportunities for local contracting and employment include: survey, fencing, mobile plant operation, trades assistant and general hand work, radiography and pressure testing.

ved.



If the project receives regulatory approval, what happens then?

If regulatory approval is received, Origin will be in a position to undertake a detailed tender process for the engineering, procurement and construction of the power station and the pipeline. It is preferable to obtain project approval before issuing a detailed request for tender because:

- the project cannot proceed without approval
- the conditions set out in the approval will determine the configuration of aspects of the power station equipment which would need to be included in the tender specifications.

The detailed technical and commercial nature of the power station project means that the tender process and ensuing contract negotiation is likely to take six months. Once the tender process is complete, Origin would finalise its economic evaluation of the project and submit a final recommendation to the Origin Board of Directors. The economic evaluation will depend on the prevailing and forecast electricity market conditions and the capital cost of the power station and pipeline.

In the absence of delays in the approval, tender and economic evaluation processes, the earliest date for construction commencement would be Q4 2006. Construction is expected to take 26 to 28 months.

What will the power station look like?

The illustrations in this newsletter show one of the notional configurations for the proposed power station with an exhaust stack height of 43m. However, it is expected that the final configuration will have a stack height of less than 40m. The final configuration will be influenced by the conditions attached to the approval (if granted) and the results of the tender process.

Night lighting

Plant lighting will be configured to minimise the impact of stray light from the power station on its neighbours. This will be achieved by not lighting the switchyard at night, switching off plant lighting unless an operator needs to inspect a piece of equipment and using low level directional lighting on all paths. Shielded lighting and spotlighting, rather than omni-directional lighting, will be used where practical to reduce the visibility of light sources and ambient lighting. There will be occasions during routine maintenance when the plant or switchyard may be lit throughout the night.



Artist's impression of proposed power station (bird's eye view) from Connewarren Lane.



Looking east towards the proposed power station site from the Hexham Ballangeich Road, (at a distance of approximately 4.2km).



Looking east towards the proposed power station site from the western end of Connewarren Lane (at a distance of approximately 4km).

Public exhibition of project approval documents

Project approval documents will be on exhibition for public comment from 17 Nov 2005 to 12 Jan 2006.

What documentation will be exhibited?

- EES for Mortlake Power Station Project
- EPA Works Approval Application No. WA58927
- Planning Scheme Amendment No. C20
- Pipeline Permit Application No. 259

Where can I obtain a copy of these documents?

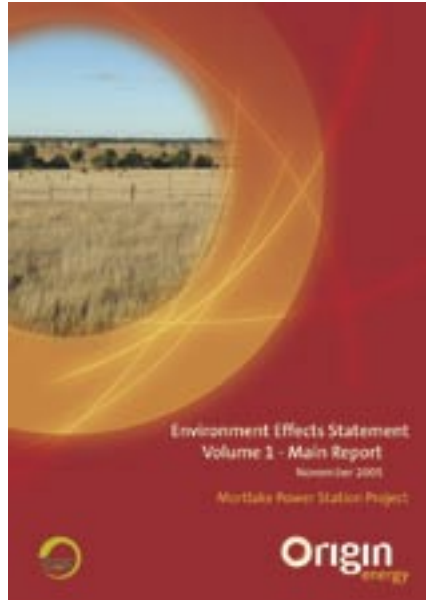
- **View** a copy at the Moyne Shire Council (Mortlake and Port Fairy), Corangamite Shire Council (Camperdown) and other locations as advertised
- **Download** a copy from www.originenergy.com.au/vicgenproject
- **Purchase** a printed copy of the EES for \$50 and/or the technical studies for \$50 (all prices include GST, postage and handling). Alternatively, obtain a free CD-ROM of the full EES, by calling 1800 015 699.

How do I make a submission?

You are invited to comment on the proposed Mortlake Power Station Project.

All submissions must be made in writing and must be posted or emailed to:

Mr. Adrian Williams
Coordinator Panels Victoria
PO Box 500
EAST MELBOURNE 3002
Email: adrian.williams@dse.vic.gov.au



During Q1 2006, Origin will respond to all public submissions. Both public submissions and Origin's response to submissions will be reviewed by the Independent Panel.

People who make a submission will also have the opportunity to appear before the panel in relation to their submission. If you wish to appear before the panel this intention should be advised at the time of your written submission.

What is the role of the Independent Panel?

Since 1990, the Planning Minister has routinely appointed an Independent Panel to review the EES and public submissions. The Panel holds public hearings and prepares a report for the Minister.

A panel is not a court of law.

The basic role of a planning panel is to:

- give submitters an opportunity to be heard in an independent forum and in an informal, non-judicial manner
- give independent advice to the planning authority and/or Minister about a proposal and about submissions referred to it.

Once the Minister for Planning has received the Independent Panel's report, he will prepare and forward a formal Assessment Report to the relevant government decision makers to determine the outcome of the environment assessment and approvals process.



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Contact details

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