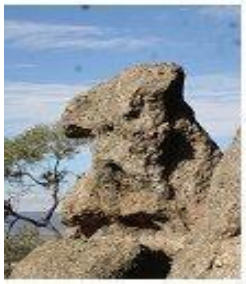

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WAG

18 July 2009

Mr Grant Farrar
Operations Manager
Xstrata Mangoola P/L
Muswellbrook NSW 2333

Dear Mr Farrar,
At the Denman Community Information Session, mid April 2009, regarding the Proposal to relocate the 500kV Transmission line Wybong Action Group provided initial feedback regarding negative outcomes associated with the proposed route outlined. This feedback was expanded upon with publication of a draft alternate route on the Wybong Action Group website (www.wag.org.au/mod2) in May 2009 and advice to Xstrata Mangoola P/L and Muswellbrook Shire Council Environment Committee of the Alternate Route Proposal on June 3, 2009.

The attached "Alternate North-East 500kV Transmission Line Relocation Proposal" is based on:

- the primary goal objective and requirement of the Anvil Hill Project by the Director-General of the NSW Department of Planning for "no net loss of flora and fauna values in the medium to long term"[1],
- ESD Principles,
- Appendix 9, Ecological Assessment, Anvil Hill Environmental Assessment August 2006,
- Appendix13, Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment, Anvil Hill Environmental Assessment August 2006,
- Appendix 3, Anvil Hill Coal Project, Independent Hearing and Assessment Panel, Flora & Fauna
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan, Xstrata Mangoola P/L, July 2008
- relevant requirements of:
    - Muswellbrook LEP 1985,
    - Hunter REP 1989,
    - Muswellbrook LEP 2008, Part 1,2 & 3,
    - Section 8, Rural Development Control Plan, Muswellbrook DCP 2008, and
- Effects of EMF on species such as mammals[2],
- Community Input and Feedback received by Wybong Action Group.

The resultant "Alternate North-East 500kV Transmission Line Relocation Route":

- aims to better fulfil the Director-Generals requirement of "no net loss of flora and fauna values in the medium to long term" by avoiding Transmission Line Relocation induced clearing of, and encroachment of EMF fields into pre-European Woodland, Rock Shelters and Escarpment of recognised High Habitat Value previously identified by Peake, HCRCMA, Umwelt & DEC for protection in perpetuity[3] and as *Biodiversity Offset* and *Corridor* in mitigation[4] of the otherwise severe impacts on flora and fauna of the unmitigated Project, acknowledging also that "there are NO reserves on the floor of the Hunter Valley that protect vegetation similar to that occurring on the Permian sediments of the (mine) study area"[5]
- avoids 500 kV Transmission Line encroachment on areas of identified *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Value*[6] and *High Scenic Value*[7],
- is 30% shorter, and
- less costly to construct and maintain.

Documentation consisting of an amended Anvil Hill EA, Maps and Text will be provided Xstrata Mangoola in the near term to validate the reasons for the proposal, promotion and selection by the Wybong Community of the "Alternate North-East 500kV Transmission Line Relocation Route."

The "Alternate North-East 500kV Transmission Line Relocation Route" is proposed to Xstrata Mangoola P/L by Wybong Action Group for, with and on behalf of the Wybong Community for consideration in good faith within the 500 kV Transmission Relocation Modification Proposal and any associated Environmental Assessment.

Wybong Action Group believe the adoption by Xstrata Mangoola P/L of a route, such as the "Alternate North-East 500kV Transmission Line Relocation Route", provides the Community and Xstrata Mangoola a superior environmental, ecological, aboriginal heritage and cost outcome, provides the Director-General of the Department of Planning a less harmful (than otherwise) impact on flora and fauna values in the medium to long term and is to the benefit of all concerned.

We recommend the attached "Alternate North-East 500kV Transmission Line Relocation Route" for your consideration,

Sincerely,

John Shewan

John Shewan
President
Wybong Action Group.

Attached: Alternate North-East 500kV Transmission Line Relocation Route Summary

cc. Phil Jones, Major Projects Assessment, NSW Department of Planning
Mayor Martin Rush, Muswellbrook Shire Council

[1] p5, Appendix2, Authorities Correspondence, Anvil Hill Environmental Assessment, August 2006

[2] The Precautionary Principle and Risk Perception: Experimental Studies in the EMF Area, Peter M. Wiedemann and Holger Schütz, Research Centre Jülich, Programme Group MUT (Humans, Environment, Technology), Jülich, Germany.
Effects of Electromagnetic Fields on Photophasic Circulating Melatonin Levels in American Kestrels, Kimberly Jan Fernie,1,2 David Michael Bird,1 and Denis Petitclerc3, 1Natural Resource Sciences, McGill University, Quebec, Quebec, Canada; 2Toxicology Centre and Biology, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada; 3Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Lennoxville, Quebec, Canada
Effects of electromagnetic fields of low frequency and low intensity on rat metabolism, Gabriele Gerardi1, Antonella De Ninno*2, Marco Prosdocimi3, Vanni Ferrari1, Filippo Barbaro3, Sandro Mazzariol4, Daniele Bernardini1 and Getullio Talpo3, 1Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, University of Padua, 2ENEA, CR Frascati, Dept. FIM, 3PROMETEO S.r.l., Via Marostica 2, 35100, Padua, Italy and 4Department of Public Health, Comparative Pathology, and Veterinary Hygiene, University of Padua, Italy
Bats Avoid Radar Installations: Could Electromagnetic Fields Deter Bats from Colliding with Wind Turbines? Barry Nicholls, Paul A. Racey, School of Biological Sciences, University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen, United Kingdom

[3] p37, 201, Appendix 9a, Ecological Assessment, Anvil Hill Environmental Assessment, August 2006
p7, 26, 31Appendix 3, Anvil Hill Coal Project, Independent Hearing and Assessment Panel, Flora & Fauna, Jan 2007

[4] p164, 185, 220, Appendix 9a, Ecological Assessment, Anvil Hill Environmental Assessment, August 2006
p17, Appendix 3, Anvil Hill Coal Project, Independent Hearing and Assessment Panel, Flora & Fauna, Jan 2007

[5] p28, Appendix 9a, Ecological Assessment, Anvil Hill Environmental Assessment, August 2006

[6] Fig 9.1, Appendix13a, Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment, Anvil Hill Environmental Assessment August 2006,
Fig 7.1, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan, Xstrata Mangoola P/L, July 2008

[7] Muswellbrook LEP 1985, Hunter REP 1989, Muswellbrook LEP 2008, Part 1,2 & 3, Section 8, Rural Development Control Plan, Muswellbrook DCP 2008, Appendix 15, Visual Assessment, Anvil Hill Environmental Assessment August 2006