



Project Update

Coal Loss Management Project

UPDATE 7

Innovative monitoring system targets dusty trains

QR Network Coal Systems has installed the first of its three planned innovative monitoring systems in Central Queensland.

The unit was installed at Marmor, south of Rockhampton, after a number of other sites were considered. The location of the monitoring site was limited to the availability of power along the track, the requirement to follow QR's strict safety procedures, while at the same time ensuring the site is in a track section where trains are at near maximum speed.

The opacity monitoring units include light technology that can identify visible coal dust, a train tag identifier and weather station.

Real time data will be relayed back to QR's recording system where it will be analysed by independent environmental consultant Katestone Environmental.

The initial unit is a pilot system which will need to be proved prior to other units being located in the Moura and Goonyella rail corridor systems.

The collated data will be used to establish a benchmark of dusty trains which can then be used to develop a compliance system for veneering.

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CCEF begins developing Coal Dust Management Plan

Coal Chain Environmental Forum (CCEF) members have begun developing a Coal Dust Management Plan as part of QR Network's requirement to fulfil a Transitional Environmental Program requested by the Department of Environment and Resource Management.

The members met in Brisbane on February 16 and May 19 where a number of veneering presentations were made. The presentations gave industry an opportunity to identify which product would most suit their site requirements.

The group also agreed to a timeline for implementing mitigation methods. Veneering will be implemented by the first quarter

of 2010, significantly reducing dust emissions from coal during transit.

The way coal is loaded will also be improved, with operational practices to be reviewed from mid 2010. Mines will be encouraged to ensure profiles are a standard flat shape and don't exceed a nominated height. This will contribute to the effectiveness of veneering.

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Residual coal in empty wagons, left over from unloading, will be mitigated by a number of methods. Cleaning the internal surface of the wagon to improve unloading is just one of the techniques being investigated.

QR to launch new complaints system

Community members who have concerns about the impact of coal or dust on their properties will be more efficiently responded to thanks to a new Community Connect 1800 line, and revised internal management process.

The revised approach will allow more information to be recorded from calls, with a detailed tracking process reducing response times.

It's expected the new system will eventually link into an industry-wide central response system for coal dust.

Key Terms

Transitional Environmental Program (TEP)

A TEP is issued by the Department for Environment and Resource Management when an organisation is required to transition to a new environmental standard

Coal Dust Management Plan (CDMP)

A plan that is currently being developed by QR Network in consultation and collaboration with the coal supply chain to map the future management of coal dust from trains.

Opacity Monitoring Station

A dust monitoring unit that identifies visible coal dust from trains.

Coal Chain Environmental Forum (CCEF)

The key industry group QR has established to develop the CDMP.

Veneering

The process of spraying an organic-based liquid onto the surface of loaded coal wagons to minimise coal dust.

Coal Industry Working Groups deliver operational analysis

Operational staff from across the coal supply chain met in Rockhampton recently in a series of workshops to share information about practices relating to loading of coal trains and effective dust management.

The workshops, facilitated by QR's Coal Loss Management team, examined current dust management practices and potential ways of improving them.

The discussions proved a valuable contribution to identifying improved practices.

The information will now be distributed back to each of the Coal Supply Chain representatives to help facilitate revised dust management processes.

Have your say

QR Network encourages feedback from the community. If you would like to register feedback about coal loss in your area, please mail to: Communication and Stakeholder Manager, Coal Loss Management Project, GPO Box 1429, Brisbane QLD 4001, or call us on (07) 3235 5527. Alternatively, you can email coalloss@qr.com.au