

21 April 2020

**Loy Yang B
Power Station**

Powering  alintaenergy

LOY YANG B DUST EXCEEDANCE EVENT

In February 2020, there was a single dust exceedance event at Loy Yang B Power Station.

One of the operating units experienced high dust conditions from the main flue gas discharge location (stack). The operating crew for that shift received visual and audible alarms from our continuous monitoring equipment for dust discharges within three minutes of the event commencing. The high dust conditions were caused by an unexpected loss of dust capture equipment (the precipitators) controls and power supply on Unit 1.

The following action was undertaken:

- Reduction of generation to the electricity market (resulting in a reduction in coal being burnt) to minimum safe levels of operation;
- Commenced introduction of natural gas auxiliary fuel while our primary fuel, coal, was reduced back to zero;
- Commenced fault finding and re-instating of dust capture equipment.

Following a detailed investigation by our engineering and maintenance staff, the initiating electrical fault could not be identified. As a precaution, several control and electrical hardware items were replaced that may have contributed to the cause of the failure.

For a single 30-minute period, Loy Yang B recorded a dust mass rate value greater than that permitted by our EPA operating licence #3987 (station maximum limit 11,100 g/min). The elevated levels of dust for that one 30-minute period will have been diluted in the atmosphere with normal flue gas discharges. On the day of the event, the EPA was contacted via the EPA Pollution Hotline.

Whilst there would have been higher levels of visible dust occurring during the period there was not any measurable impact to the environment or community. We supplied EPA with a copy of our investigation for their assessment.

Loy Yang B will report this event as a non-compliance of licence condition LI_DA1 Discharge of waste to air must be in accordance with the 'Discharge to Air' Table in our FY20 Annual Performance Statement (APS). APS's must be submitted to EPA prior to 30 September each year reporting against compliance for the previous financial year period. Following review by EPA they become a public record and can be viewed on the EPA website.

Loy Yang B takes its environmental compliance obligations very seriously and has an excellent record in meeting our operating licence requirements. Our dust capture equipment operates with a high level of reliability and performance with normal operating dust levels significantly below the allowable licence maximums. This is a rare and isolated event that has not previously occurred in over 20 years of operation.

We will continue to review our operating processes to look for opportunities to lower any risk of harm to the environment.

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