

ACTION ITEMS FROM MEETING OF 12/13 APRIL 1999

Introduction / Apologies

Notes of previous meeting

Action items / Matters arising

- ICRAF - Patrick Harriman, Director of ICRAF wrote to PEAK on 10 March stating the board wished him to discontinue membership of PEAK. He suggested another NGO to represent the Landowners. Possible Powes Parkop from the Melanesian Environmental Foundation. After some discussion, it was decided to approach other groups for possible membership, including the Research and Conservation Foundation (RCF), Conservation Melanesia and Melsol. Meg Taylor and Mel Togolo to determine interest levels. Aim to get preferred potential member to attend the next meeting.
- Independent Sediment Program - Lake Murray. The Chair noted that little progress had been made on the proposed sediment program. She requested that Mr van den Brand contact Dr Wolf and advise progress to committee members before the next meeting.

Status report on environmental performance :

CSIRO Recommendations / Implementation (action plan).

It was agreed that PEAK should review all recommendations taken on by PJV, and the [CSIRO Recommendation Matrix](#) should be lodged on the website. All comments on the existing format should be directed to Mel Togolo within one month (end of April). The last column of the matrix should become 'PEAK Comments'.

Progress on Acid Rock Drainage

Presentation by Graeme Johnson and Keith Ferguson.

Porgera has one of the largest databases on ARD in the world. The Porgera region is high in natural carbonate sediments in limestone rocks within the mining sequence. The natural carbonate in the sediments will neutralise acid that is generated from sulphide minerals. There is some potential for elevated Zn and Cd.

There have been no impacts on SG2 or SG3 (monitoring stations). There is a potential for impacts at SG1, however this should be virtually eliminated by implementing a material management plan.

Prevention techniques include :

- Encapsulation
- Blending
- Underwater
- Soil cover

So, in order to minimise the risk of ARD, the PJV will undertake geostatistical

- Sample drillholes for ABA and metals
- Modelling
- Characterise blocks for ARD
 - Potentially acid forming (PAF)
 - Neutral low metal (NLM)
 - Neutral high metal (NHM)
 - Acid neutralising (AN)

By implementing the material management plan there is more than a 90% chance of the water meeting drinking standards for Zn and Cd.

PEAK Website

Presentation by Ian Williams, Public Affairs, Placer Dome Asia Pacific

Ian Williams demonstrated the PEAK website which was still in the development phase. The major components of the site were detailed and explained. All contributing organisations websites will be connected to the PEAK website via a hyper-link. It was noted that permission will need to be granted by each organisation for this to occur.

It is intended that the PEAK home page will be posted on the Placer Dome Inc website, as a hyper-link, however it will have its own independent internet address.

The *membership profile* section of PEAK will feature an independent page for each category of members. Each member was asked to complete a brief biographical questionnaire and return it to PDAP Sydney office as soon as possible. Photos will also be posted on the net. A number of photos were taken during the meeting for use on the PEAK website.

The *'Issues and Actions'* page will feature separate 'Action' pages following each PEAK meeting. In addition, relevant reports or summaries of reports will be posted. Users will need to contact the Placer Dome or the Porgera Mine Manager if they require full copies of the report. The 'Actions' and 'Reports' sections are intended to clearly demonstrate the progress being made through PEAK.

The website sub committee will determine which reports will be posted on the site and what additional information may be posted from time to time.

Possible occurrence of Hemorrhagic Fever

Presentation by Gerard Saleu

Mr Saleu advised the committee that hemorrhagic fever may have caused 60-70 deaths in the Paiela region over a 7-8 year period. The symptoms include swelling of the limbs and the disease tends to strike younger men and women. A copy of a doctor's report into the deaths is with the Community Affairs department at Porgera. Gerard indicated that he would like to see a copy distributed to each PEAK member.

The IMR wants to determine for certain if it is 'Hemorrhagic fever' that is affecting the local people, and if not, what exactly is causing the problem. In order to confirm the presence of Hemorrhagic fever, it will be necessary to take blood samples. The IMR believes that further research is necessary, and blood will need to be collected from survivors. It was agreed that Hugh Wilson would get a copy of the ANU report and discuss with Evert van den Brand, Russell Barwick and Dr Jethro. It was suggested that Gerard meet Dr Jethro, and Gerard agreed he would contact him.

Gerard will also meet Dr Paul Turner so that IMR can become a partner in the WHO health project.

Gerard asked the komiti if it was possible for him to visit the Lower Strickland in his own time as part of his medical research. The komiti recommended he write to the mine manager seeking his support to do this.

Dr Bob Pidgeon of ERISS visited Porgera for one week in September 1998. The visit was very beneficial and gave Dr Pidgeon a deeper insight into the issues facing the mine. During his stay Dr Pidgeon evaluated environmental field monitoring and laboratory procedures and visited Lake Murray. He gained an insight into the complexity of the operation, the logistical and technical challenges, and the high costs associated with program activities.

World Health Organisation (WHO) proposed health program for Porgera

Presentation by Dr Paul Turner

Dr Paul Turner outlined some of the WHO initiatives in treating tropical diseases. He discussed the treatment methods and success rates with specific reference to filariasis and the success of the program on Misima Island and Milne Bay Province.

Dr Turner outlined the proposed approach to a health program downstream of Porgera.

The komiti discussed the program and noted common interests between the program and Gerard Saleu's initiatives. They recommended more liaison between WHO and IMR, with more involvement of IMR in the program. Gerard to discuss with Paul Turner.

Sub-committees

In order to maximise meeting efficiency and facilitate action items, it was resolved to form sub committees who would advance action items between meetings. Three were formed :

- Community Consultation

Gerard Saleu
Michael Rae (Coordinator)
Michael Kiap
Mel Togolo
Roland Sieb

- Mine Technical Issues

Michael Kiap (Coordinator)
Pawa Limu
Graham Batley
Ani Topurua

- Communication / Website

Mel Togolo (Coordinator)
Evert van den Brand
Michael Rae
Ani Topurua
Ian Williams
Chairperson

Community Consultation

The komiti discussed ways of improving consultation with downstream communities. It was suggested that community leaders be brought to site for briefings. It was also suggested that community leaders be brought to the mine site for briefings. It was also suggested that Dr Jethro speak with Gerard before visiting downstream again, and if possible, have Gerard and Michael on site when the community leaders visit.

Other busines

Meg Taylor tendered her resignation as Chairperson of PEAK and announced she would be joining the International Finance Corporation (IFC) for a three year term in Washington.

Next meeting

The next meeting was set for 4-7 October 1999 at Porgera.