

19.12.13

Essential Services Commission
Level 37 2 Lonsdale St
Melbourne,3000.
licences@esc.vic.gov.au

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I wish to object to the application by Alcoa of Australia Ltd.(ABN 93004879298) for a licence to generate Electricity for supply and sale from the 1st of August 2014.
(a generation licence)

I believe this licence should be refused as Alcoa fails to meet OBJECTIVE 6 of the Essential Services Commission Act 2001.

“To ensure that regulatory decision making has regard to the relevant health, safety and environmental and social legislation, applying to the regulated industry.”

I wish to address the Health and Safety concerns for Anglesea Residents :

The World Health Organisation concludes there is no safe level of exposure to Sulphur Dioxide.

Alcoa Anglesea emits 35000000 kg/ year of SO₂.

People with Asthma, the elderly and children are most at risk.

Alcoa's open cut brown coal mine is less than 500 metres from homes in Anglesea, however, The EPA Victoria's recommended separation distance for an open cut coalmine from sensitive land use is 1000 metres.

The Anglesea Primary School is only 1000metres from the coal mine and 1200 metres from the power plant and stack.

The National Environmental Protection Council recently found current Standards **DO NOT protect human health adequately.**

But Alcoa Anglesea refuses to regard Anglesea residents' right to clean air and will not install “best practice” SO₂ scrubber technology to reduce SO₂ by 90%.

The Victorian Standard for SO₂ emission is 200 parts per billion averaged over one hour.

The European Standard for SO₂ emission is 122 parts per billion averaged over one hour.

The US Standard for SO₂ emission is 75 parts per billion averaged over one hour.

Alcoa regularly exceeds the EU and US standard. It has also reported levels higher than the Victorian standard.

Therefore as a Preschool teacher working in the Surf Coast Shire, I am extremely concerned for the future health of the children living, commuting to, visiting or holidaying in Anglesea, as well as the general population.

Teachers, parents, residents, holiday visitors and workers cannot monitor the spikes in SO₂ emissions as there is no REAL TIME SO₂ data monitoring by Alcoa.

Teachers have a "Duty of Care " to ensure the health and safety of their students. I do not believe this is possible with Alcoa's current practice in Anglesea. SO₂ is known to affect vigorously exercising asthmatics. No current readings or real time data are available to aid planning for risk situations.

The local brown coal has very high emissions of SO₂ which have 10 times the SO₂ content of the brown coal mined in the Latrobe Valley. SO₂ also increases lung disease and cardio respiratory mortality as well as being linked to low birth weight.

Fine particulate monitoring does not occur. Recent studies now link long term exposure to fine particulates and natural cause mortality at lower concentration levels. Many other toxic elements are released with coal combustion including arsenic, mercury, fluorine, cadmium, lead, selenium and zinc.

Anglesea Alcoa fails to regard the health implications of the Anglesea Community and should not be granted a licence to generate electricity.

Yours sincerely
Alanna Ricardo.