

# **Yakabindie nickel project**

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**Dominion Mining Limited**

**Proposed change to environmental conditions**

**Report and recommendation  
of the Environmental Protection Authority**

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**Environmental Protection Authority  
Perth, Western Australia  
Bulletin 668  
December 1992**

## THE PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

This report contains the Environmental Protection Authority's environmental assessment and recommendations to the Minister for the Environment on the environmental acceptability of the proposal.

Immediately following the release of the report there is a 14-day period when anyone may appeal to the Minister against the Environmental Protection Authority's Report.

After the appeal period, and determination of any appeals, the Minister consults with the other relevant ministers and agencies and then issues his decision about whether the proposal may or may not proceed. The Minister also announces the legally binding environmental conditions which might apply to any approval.

## APPEALS

If you disagree with any of the contents of the assessment report or recommendations you may appeal in writing to the Minister for the Environment outlining the environmental reasons for your concern and enclosing the appeal fee of \$10.

It is important that you clearly indicate the part of the report you disagree with and the reasons for your concern so that the grounds of your appeal can be properly considered by the Minister for the Environment.

## ADDRESS

Hon Minister for the Environment  
12th Floor, Dumas House  
2 Havelock Street  
WEST PERTH WA 6005

## CLOSING DATE

Your appeal (with the \$10 fee) must reach the Minister's office no later than 5.00 pm on 5 January, 1993.

# 1. Background

Dominion Mining Limited submitted a Consultative Environmental Review for the Yakabindie Nickel Project in April 1990. Following environmental impact assessment of the project by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA Bulletin 444), the Minister for the Environment approved the project in December 1990, subject to environmental conditions (Appendix 1).

Subsequently modifications were made to the project including, relocation of the concentrator, relocation of the tailings dam, and relocation of waste dumps to the site previously occupied by the tailings dam. These modifications were assessed by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA Bulletin 509) and approved by the Minister for the Environment in May 1991 (Appendix 2).

# 2. The proposal

Dominion Mining Limited has written to the Minister for the Environment proposing further modifications to the Yakabindie Nickel Project to incorporate a new open pit and associated waste dump area, and an expansion of the Six Mile pit (Appendix 3). These modifications have been sent to the Environmental Protection Authority for environmental impact assessment.

The new open pit is known as the Goliath North pit and is located to the south-east of the Six Mile pit (Figure 1). The Six Mile pit is to be expanded which would increase its ore reserves by about 10%. The combined increase in ore reserves from the proposed modifications would be approximately 45 million tonnes. This increase would increase the life of the project from 15 years to approximately 20 years.

A waste dump would be required to service the Goliath North pit. It is proposed to locate this dump to the east of the open pit adjacent to the south-west corner of Wanjarri Nature Reserve in the area proposed for a waste dump in the original proposal.

# 3. Advice of the Environmental Protection Authority

The Environmental Protection Authority has considered the environmental impacts of the proposed modifications to the Yakabindie Nickel Project and does not believe they are significant. As in the original assessment the prime environmental considerations are the protection of Jones Creek and the Wanjarri Nature Reserve.

The Drainage Management Programme, required as part of the environmental conditions of approval, provides management measures that would protect Jones Creek from any impacts of the new developments. This programme also describes measures to protect the nature reserve from any drainage impacts associated with the modified proposal.

Backfilling of the Goliath North pit with potentially acid producing waste from the Six Mile pit is regarded as a positive aspect of the proposal as the waste would be surrounded by solid rock, thus reducing the opportunity for erosion in comparison to an exposed surface dump.

The proponent's commitments and environmental conditions applying to the earlier proposal for the Yakabindie Nickel Project would also apply to the proposed modifications.

## Recommendation

**The Environmental Protection Authority regards the proposed modifications to the Yakabindie Nickel Project as environmentally acceptable and recommends that Condition 1 should be amended to read "In implementing the proposal (including the documented modifications of 20 February 1991 and 15 October 1992) the proponent shall fulfil the commitments (which are not inconsistent with the conditions or procedures contained in this statement) made in the Consultative Environmental Review and in Appendix 1 of the Environmental Protection Authority Bulletin 444 which consolidates responses to issues during the assessment."**

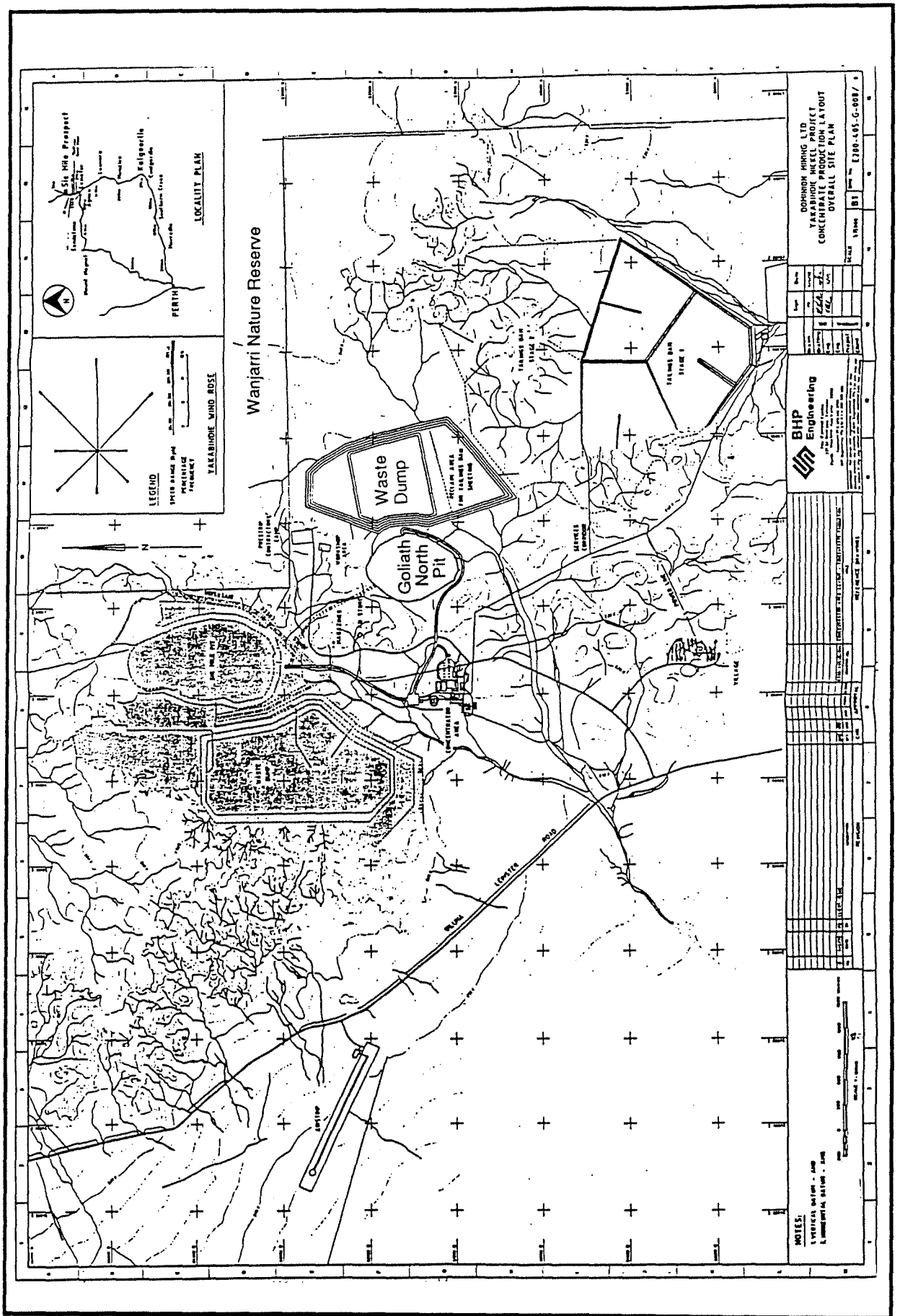


Figure 1: Revised proposal for Yakabindie nickel project

# **Appendix 1**

**Environmental conditions applying to  
the Yakabindie nickel project**



WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

STATEMENT THAT A PROPOSAL MAY BE IMPLEMENTED  
(PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1986)

**YAKABINDIE NICKEL PROJECT AT LEONORA**

This proposal may be implemented subject to the following conditions:

1. In implementing the proposal, the proponent shall fulfil the commitments (which are not inconsistent with the conditions or procedures contained in this statement) made in the Consultative Environmental Review and in Appendix 1 of the Environmental Protection Authority Bulletin 444 which consolidates responses to issues during the assessment. (A copy of the commitments is attached).
2. Subject to these conditions, the manner of detailed implementation of the proposal shall conform in substance with that set out in any designs, specifications, plans or other technical material submitted by the proponent to the Environmental Protection Authority with the proposal. Where, in the course of that detailed implementation, the proponent seeks to change those designs, specifications, plans or other technical material in any way that the Minister for the Environment determines on the advice of the Environmental Protection Authority, is not substantial, those changes may be effected.
3. Prior to the commencement of productive mining, the proponent shall prepare and implement a drainage management programme to include drainage of the waste dumps, ore stockpiles, processing plant and the tailings dam, to the satisfaction of the Minister for the Environment on the advice of the Environmental Protection Authority in consultation with the pastoral lessee. This programme shall ensure that drainage does not unacceptably affect vegetation of the site and its environs or the quality of water in Jones Creek.
4. Prior to undertaking work for the diversion of Jones Creek, the proponent shall propose a design for the diversion to the satisfaction of the Minister for the Environment on the advice of the Environmental Protection Authority and the Department of Mines. The design shall be prepared in consultation with the pastoral lessee regarding historical information on local flood heights of Jones Creek. The proponent shall subsequently implement the design to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority and the Department of Mines.
5. Within six months following project commissioning, the proponent shall prepare and implement ongoing rehabilitation plans to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority upon advice from the Department of Mines. These plans shall be made available for review by the Environmental Protection Authority.
6. The proponent shall be responsible for decommissioning and removal of the plant and installations and rehabilitating the site and its environs to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority. At least twelve months prior to decommissioning, the proponent shall prepare and subsequently implement a decommissioning and rehabilitation plan to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority upon advice from the Department of Mines. This plan shall ensure the stability of the site in the long term with particular reference to drainage.

Published on

4 DEC 1990

7. No transfer of ownership, control or management of the project which would give rise to a need for the replacement of the proponent shall take place until the Minister for the Environment has advised the proponent that approval has been given for the nomination of a replacement proponent. Any request for the exercise of that power of the Minister shall be accompanied by a copy of this statement endorsed with an undertaking by the proposed replacement proponent to carry out the project in accordance with the conditions and procedures set out in the statement.
8. If the proponent has not substantially commenced the project within five years of the date of this statement, then the approval to implement the proposal as granted in this statement shall lapse and be void. The Minister for the Environment shall determine any question as to whether the project has been substantially commenced. Any application to extend the period of five years referred to in this condition shall be made before the expiration of that period, to the Minister for the Environment by way of a request for a change in the condition under Section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act. (On expiration of the five year period, further consideration of the proposal can only occur following a new referral to the Environmental Protection Authority).



Bob Pearce, MLA  
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

29 NOV. 1990

**Appendix 1**  
**Yakabindie Nickel Project**  
**Summary of proponent's commitments**

## **1.0 Introduction**

Reference should be made to the Consultative Environmental Review document for a detailed understanding of project and the environmental monitoring and management programmes planned by the proponents.

## **2.0 Commitments**

Dominion undertakes to fulfil the following commitments to protect the environment and public during the life of the Yakabindie Project from commitment to proceed with the project to decommissioning following the completion of mining, and while ever Dominion holds the leases on which project activities have been undertaken.

### **2.1 Government acts and regulations**

- Comply with the requirements of all applicable Acts and Regulations.

### **2.2 Environmental Officer**

- Appoint a Project Environmental Officer prior to the commencement of construction whose duties include:
  - (i) environmental impact assessment and monitoring of project activities;
  - (ii) design and implementation of the progressive rehabilitation programmes including research activities associated;
  - (iii) establish fauna monitoring programmes in consultation with CALM;
  - (iv) establish feral animal eradication programmes in consultation with CALM and the APB;
  - (v) liaise and report to Government Departments as required in relation to environmental matters;
  - (vi) act as an honorary warden for the Wanjarri Nature Reserve;
  - (vii) Set up an educational programme as part of the site induction of employees for the protection of the Wanjarri Nature Reserve and areas surrounding the project;
  - (viii) obtain the appropriate licence from CALM for seed collection activities associated with rehabilitation.

### **2.3 Environmental management programme**

#### **2.3.1 Baseline studies**

- Carry out a baseline survey of Jones Creek aquatic biology and water quality as soon as possible prior to commencement of construction;
- Carry out a baseline groundwater quality survey as soon as possible prior to the commencement of construction downstream of the tailings dam and in the borefield areas.



### 2.3.2 Monitoring and inspection programmes

- Monitor groundwater levels and groundwater quality immediately downstream of the tailings dam on a regular weekly basis;
- Carry out daily inspections of the tailings dam;
- Monitor water quality of Jones Creek during the life of the project;
- Monitor groundwater resources (water quality and water levels) in the borefields and pastoral wells at Miranda, Paddy's Knob, Townsend and Henry Wells and pit dewatering, and evaluate extent and depth of drawdowns;
- Carry out regular inspections of the water pipeline from the borefields;
- Monitor noise levels to ensure compliance with Government Acts and Regulations.

### 2.3.3 Operational management procedures

#### 2.3.3.1 Dust Control

- Establish dust suppression programmes to comply with Mines Department Regulations and minimise dust pollution of the project area and adjacent nature reserve through the following procedures:
  - (i) minimise clearing of land by staging clearing works and keeping clearing to the minimum for essential use consistent with safe and efficient operations;
  - (ii) fencing off areas not to be disturbed by the project;
  - (iii) limiting development of tracks and roads to essential requirements;
  - (iv) damping haul roads and plant roads with low salinity water when available;
  - (v) carry out trails with dust suppressant materials (enzymes) mixed with water to assist with dust suppression;
  - (vi) progressive rehabilitation of tailings dam and waste dumps;
  - (vii) cover the side slopes and upper surfaces of the tailings dam and waste dumps with rock to prevent wind erosion and dust formation.
  - (viii) - Dominion will control dust on roads to the tip face using water carts (similar to elsewhere on the lease)
    - The northern and easterly faces of each dump lift will be rehabilitated early in the life of the Eastern Waste dump, and paddock dumping will occur in a southerly direction to reduce the chance of dust impact further.

#### 2.3.3.2 Noise

- Where possible, minimise blast noise impact by scheduling blasting during optimal meteorological conditions.

#### 2.3.3.3 Rehabilitation and decommissioning

- Carry out progressive rehabilitation of the waste dumps and tailings dam embankments and rehabilitate the project area to the level of the existing land use in accordance with the rehabilitation programme. This programme will be planned and carefully implemented from the commencement of mining to ensure it becomes part of the operational procedures of the project ensuring its cost effectiveness. Developments in rehabilitation techniques will be incorporated into the rehabilitation programme as appropriate.

- (i) Vegetation and topsoil salvage
  - in areas to be disturbed, all vegetation litter and topsoil (where present) will be salvaged by progressive removal in front of advancing waste dumps and immediately redeployed, where possible, to conform to natural thickness.
  - Where redeployment is not possible, material will be stockpiled in areas specifically reserved for this purpose adjacent to redeployment areas for short term storage, these stockpiles will be surface ripped, seeded and fertilised.
- (ii) Waste dumps
  - are designed and will be constructed to blend into the existing topography such that visual impact from the main roads is minimised.
  - will be constructed with overall 20 degrees overall slopes, in 10 metre high lifts, with a 5 metre wide berm for rehabilitation access separating each lift, with dumping to commence from the outside of the dumps and each lift built to full height before dumping in the centre is commenced.
  - Tops of the dumps will be sloped towards the centre of the dump, ripped on completion of construction and windrows constructed at the edge of each terrace.
  - Outer faces will be moonscaped and covered with fresh rock.
- (iii) Open Pit
  - On completion of mining the pit will be left in accordance with the details as laid out in the Department of Mines interim guidelines on safety bund walls around abandoned open pits.
- (iv) Tailings Dam
  - Will be constructed and operated to maximise water return and tailings density, by collection of water through the central decant and upstream toe drain, with return water being re-used in processing.
  - Will be constructed with 20 degrees overall slopes in 10 metre high lifts with a 5 metre wide berm for rehabilitation access separating each lift.
  - The tailings dam will be covered with a layer of waste rock on completion of mining.
  - Outer slopes will be moonscaped and covered with fresh rock.
  - The tailings lines will be located on the rebated upstream side of the embankment, and a downstream bund will be constructed to contain spills from water return lines which will be fitted with pressure transducers for automatic shut off and one way valves to limit drainage of these lines.
  - Bunds will be constructed between the plant and downstream toe drain to contain any pipeline breakages between the plant and tailings dam.
  - Decant systems will be left open on completion of mining to assist drainage, with any toxic leachates neutralised by passive methods or directed by pipeline into the abandoned open pit.
  - In the event of adverse groundwater quality changes detected by groundwater monitoring a recovery bore or seepage trench system will be installed alternative tailings disposal techniques investigated or an alternative tailings disposal site will be considered.
- (v) Support facilities
  - establishment and re-introduction of local native flora will be carried out and coordinated by the environmental officer in the village area.

- sewage disposal will be carried out in a purpose built treatment plant for the main village and by septic tank and leach drain as appropriate for the houses and main offices.
- all domestic waste will be buried within the waste dump.
- to minimise clearing requirements powerlines, water lines and associated access roads will be constructed in one corridor.
- on completion of mining all buildings and equipment including water pipelines and power transmission lines will be removed. All pipes and boreholes will be capped, costeans backfilled and the ground ripped and seeded. All sites will be left clean and tidy.

#### **2.3.3.4 Surface water**

- Install silt traps to collect run-off from roads, waste dumps and tailings dam and prevent sediment from entering the drainage channels in accordance with the management plan for drainage to be provided to the Mines Department prior to commencement of construction;
- Disruption of overland water flow will be minimised by placing the maintenance road adjacent to the pipeline on the same level as the existing ground and raising the pipeline as appropriate to the topography and at least every 50 metres to permit free passage of run-off.
- In the unlikely event that the existing design of the eastern waste dump has not fully obviated the chance of ponding of water during an extraordinary rainfall event leading to flooding of part of the southern areas of the reserve, further suitable earthworks would be performed at that time to overcome such a problem.

#### **2.3.5 Groundwater**

- A groundwater management programme will be adopted to balance project requirements from the borefields with the quantities of water recovered from the tailings dam and mine dewatering;
- Pipelines from the borefields will be fitted with a series of one way valves at strategic locations to limit draining of pipes in the event of pipeline failure or for maintenance requirements.

#### **2.3.3.6 Hazardous substances**

- Transportation, storage and handling of hazardous substances will be in accordance with the appropriate regulations.
- Waste oils will be combined with fuel for the power station. Waste grease will be collected and transported off site for recycling.

#### **2.3.3.7 Nature Reserve**

- Provide new access to the Wanjarri Nature Reserve complete with gate and appropriate fencing.
- Institute education programmes as part of the site induction of employees for the Wanjarri Nature Reserve.

#### **2.3.3.8 Pastoral activities**

- Erect fencing as agreed with relevant parties around some or all parts of the development.

- Provide additional stock watering points where wells are affected by project dewatering.

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#### **2.3.3.9 Fire control**

- Maintain strict fire control procedures.

#### **2.3.3.10 Access to the project**

- Restrict human and non avian faunal access to potentially hazardous areas by fencing if required.
- Signs, fences and gates will be installed where necessary to prohibit public access to the mine site and village.

#### **2.3.3.11 Aboriginal interests**

- Submit an application to the WA Museum for Aboriginal artefact sites which are to be disturbed.

#### **2.3.3.12 Conditions of employment**

- Recreational activities such as off road driving, hunting, etc, will not be permitted by employees.
- Keeping of domestic animals (dog, cats, etc) will be prohibited on the project.

### **2.4 Environmental management reports**

- Submit an annual report of environmental management and monitoring programmes to an agreed format and content with State Authorities.

## **Appendix 2**

**Statement to amend conditions applying to  
the Yakabindie nickel project**



WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

STATEMENT TO AMEND CONDITIONS APPLYING TO A PROPOSAL  
(PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 46 OF THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1986)

PROPOSAL : YAKABINDIE NICKEL PROJECT

CONDITIONS SET ON : 4 DECEMBER 1990

Condition 1 has been amended to read as follows:

In implementing the proposal (including the documented modifications of 20 February 1991) the proponent shall fulfil the commitments (which are not inconsistent with the conditions or procedures contained in this statement) made in the Consultative Environmental Review and in Appendix 1 of the Environmental Protection Authority Bulletin 444 which consolidates responses to issues during the assessment.

Bob Pearce, MLA  
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

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Published on  
28 MAY 1991

## **Appendix 3**

**Proposed modifications to  
the Yakabindie nickel project**



# Dominion Resources Pty. Ltd.

A.C.N. 002 940 589

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West Perth W.A. 6872  
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Yakabindie Nickel Project  
Fax No: 61-9-426-6427

GSB:hmc  
15 October 1992  
Our Ref No: 463/92  
File No: YK09C/16.04

19 OCT 1992

Minister for the Environment  
18th Floor, Allendale Square  
77 St. George's Terrace  
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Sir,

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AUTHORITY  
21 OCT 1992  
File No 103/74 Initials

RE: **YAKABINDIE NICKEL PROJECT  
SECTION 46 AMENDMENT**

## 1.0 DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENT

As foreshadowed in our letter of 25 March, 1992 the evaluation of the Goliath North prospect is complete and we now seek approval for its inclusion in the development project.

### 1.1 Mining Schedule

#### ● Volumes/Tonnages of Materials to be Excavated

The size of the Six Mile pit has been increased and the Goliath North prospect has been evaluated and is incorporated into the feasibility study. This has increased the mining reserves and therefore the mine life to twenty years (plus), at the six million tonnes per annum processing rate.

The current design tonnages of the pits are outlined below:

	Goliath North	Six Mile
Ore tonnes x 10 <sup>6</sup>	33	101
Waste tonnes x 10 <sup>6</sup>	192	452
Total rock tonnes x 10 <sup>3</sup>	225	553

103/75  
60900 ✓



Economic considerations determine that the Goliath North deposit is excavated first. The current mining schedule completes the mining of the Goliath North pit in the seventh year of ore production.

Prestripping of the Six Mile deposit commences in the second year of ore production from the Goliath Pit. Six Mile ore production commences in year 5 and increases during years 6 and 7 to complement the depleting Goliath North reserve.

- Waste Dump Construction

Each of the two pits has an area allocated for the surface dumping of waste rock so as to minimise the economic (haul distance) and associated environmental impacts. The location of the current dumps are shown on Drawing No. E200-405-G-008/0.

The dump for the Goliath North pit lies to the east of the pit between the Wanjarri Nature Reserve to the north and the tailings dam to the south. The construction design, rehabilitation and management as outlined in the Drainage Management Plan and the earlier CER will apply so as to minimise the impact on the Wanjarri Nature Reserve. The most suitable materials for capping the tailings dam at the end of the project are directed to the southern dump limit to facilitate their reclamation at the appropriate time.

The dump area to the west of the Six Mile pit is retained and utilised for most of the material generated from that pit. Additionally, the current mine schedule, based upon current resource knowledge, shows that mining of the Goliath North pit ceases in year 7 following the removal of 225 million tonnes of ore and waste. Provision has therefore been made in the feasibility study for this area to be backfilled with at least 150 million tonnes of waste, allowing for swell, from the Six Mile pit.

Since the Goliath North excavation is expected to be hydrologically tight it is considered suitable for the containment of those materials with the highest potential to generate acidic leachates. These materials would previously have been encapsulated in the waste dump to the west of Jones Creek.

The surface of the Goliath North backfill dump would be composed of fresh rock left in a ripped and rough state to facilitate rainfall infiltration and thus prevent run-off into the natural drainage regime. The coarse nature of the surface rock with significant voids will inhibit the capillary rise of groundwater (with a T.D.S. of 2000 ppm to 5000 ppm at a typical R.L. of 510m A.H.D. within the pit boundary) from within the pit to the ground surface.

The impact of the increase in size of the Six Mile excavation upon the size of the Western waste dump is insignificant, since it is matched by the volume made available by the Goliath North excavation.

## 1.2 Tailings Disposal

The tailings dam has been designed by Soil and Rock Engineering Pty Ltd to accommodate 20 years tailings at an ore processing rate of  $6.0 \times 10^6$  tonnes per annum. No additional tailings storage capacity is required to accommodate the increased production.

## 1.3 Support Facilities Workforce and Transport Corridors

No significant change will take place with these items as it is not proposed to increase the production rate with the additional reserves generated by the Goliath North Pit. The mine life only will be increased.

## 2.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MANAGEMENT

### 2.1 Surface Water/Drainage

- Haul Roads

The guidelines in the current Drainage Management Plan which has been approved by the EPA will be applicable to the additional haul roads required for the Goliath North pit.

- Drainage Lines and Impact of Drainage on Wanjarri Nature Reserve

The drainage line which flows south out of the Wanjarri Nature Reserve will be buried by the Goliath North waste dump. As with other drainage channels, under the waste dumps to the west of Jones Creek it is proposed that this channel be filled with coarse, competent material to allow it to flow under the dump. It is also possible for this drainage line to be diverted into the toe drain around the dump since the contours are relatively flat. The drainage channel which flows through the southern portion of the dump will initially be filled with coarse competent waste to allow underflow, as above.

During commissioning the channel will be reopened since the southern portion of the dump is reclaimed to provide material for the capping of the tailings dam, all drainage from the north will be redirected down this route.

### 2.2 Groundwater

- Mine Dewatering

The test bores recommended by Coffey Partners International have been drilled and are substantially dry. The standing groundwater level at the time of drilling was 510m R.L. A.H.D. within the pit boundary (505m R.L. east and west of the pit) and the TDS of the water was 5000 ppm on the east wall and 2000 ppm on the west wall. It is proposed that the probable minor inflows and precipitation will be collected in sumps and pumped to the dust suppression collection tanks.

## **2.3 Waste Dumps**

### ● Environmental Management

The Goliath North waste rock types have not been characterised with regard to the generation of acidic leachates, however, it is considered that the high incidence of antigorite and carbonated shear zone rocks will adequately neutralise any waste containing residual sulphides.

The provisions of the previous CER and the Drainage Management Plan will apply to the Goliath North (eastern) waste dump and continue to apply to the Six Mile (western) waste dump.

The backfilled Goliath pit however will have a rough, domed cap of fresh rock and will not be treated with topsoil since the major consideration is to allow the penetration of precipitation. The surface of the waste dumped into the pit will continue to settle for some time after the completion of filling.

## **3.0 NEGATIVE AND POSITIVE IMPACTS**

### ● Negative Impacts

- (a) Compared to the Six Mile only case a larger area is now required to be disturbed (245 hectare increase above the previous Six Mile only case). However, the project life has been substantially increased with subsequent greater benefit for the State.
- (b) An eastern waste dump adjacent to the Wanjarri Nature Reserve is again required. However, the impact of the proposed new dump upon the Reserve (compared to the original proposal) is reduced as the rationalisation of mining lease ownership and adjacent land uses in the area has allowed the Company to modify the design shape of the dump to one which is more sensitive to the proximity of the Wanjarri Nature Reserve. Drawing No. W1292-00/G-001 shows the old dump shape in relation to the Reserve boundary.

### ● Positive Impacts

- (a) The extended life of the project will provide benefits to the State in additional royalties, benefits to the local communities and benefits to the employees whilst maximising the use of infrastructure and project capital.
- (b) Backfilling Goliath North Pit minimises the surface disturbance and visual impacts which would be caused by the extension of waste dumps.
- (c) Backfilling of the Goliath North pit with sulphide waste from the Six Mile pit further reduces the potential for acid mine drainage to Jones Creek.

- (d) Selected Goliath waste is utilised for tailings dam capping reducing the haul distance and associated environmental impacts as compared to utilising Six Mile waste.
- (e) The rehabilitation of the upper surface of the western waste dumps can be commenced earlier than planned as waste from the Six Mile pit will be directed to the Goliath North pit.

Dominion Resources Pty Ltd recognises that commitments as previously given in the CER documentation and the conditions as attached to the Minister for the Environment's letters to the Company of 29 November, 1990 and 4 June 1991 would be applicable to any modified site layout.

Yours faithfully,



**G.S. BECKER**  
**Project Manager - Yakabindie Nickel Project**

Att: Drawing W1292-00/G-001 (Original Site Plan, May 1990)  
Drawing E200-405-G-008 (Current Site Plan, June 1992)

c.c.: C. Lane (Soil & Rock Engineering)