



## **Ffos-y-fran Land Reclamation Scheme**

### **Site Progress Report**

**Report date:** 26<sup>th</sup> October 2015 – 28<sup>th</sup> January 2016

**Prepared for Liaison Committee Meeting dated:** 28<sup>th</sup> January 2016

**Report prepared by:** Georgina Taubman

	<b>Update from FYF</b>
<b>1.0</b>	<p><b>Water management &amp; Audits</b></p> <p>As a result of December's record breaking rain fall levels (412.3mm), extra daily observations and samples were taken at all discharge points (on and off site), and river monitoring locations. No issues were observed and the onsite hydrology systems (lagoons and channels) worked effectively.</p> <p>Since Miller Argent's last Committee report at the end of October 2016 all water discharges inspected by Natural Resources Wales were within consented limits with the exception of two samples taken in December at Water Treatment Area "C" (on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>) by Miller Argent. These were analysed internally and observed to be cloudy. They were sent for laboratory analysis and were found to have slightly exceeded our 50 mg/l limit for suspended solids – the sample from the 5<sup>th</sup> was 57.9 mg/l and the sample from the 6<sup>th</sup> was 52.1 mg/l.</p> <p>It should be noted that rain fall between Dec 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> January was 538.1 mm and has resulted in heavy showers washing soil from the banks of the lagoon resulting in the marginally elevated suspended solids. NRW were informed about the situation and were satisfied that the situation was being managed. Actual discharge rates at the time were low as is normal for this lagoon area.</p> <p>On the same two days, two other turbidity alarm samples were sent off for analysis but both came back under the 50 mg/l limit – 28.9 mg/l on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 29.7 mg/l on the 6<sup>th</sup> respectively. By the 7<sup>th</sup> of January suspended solid levels had reduced to 44.3 mg/l.</p> <p><b>Water probes</b></p> <p>The water monitoring probe dial up system for each of the four lagoons has an intermittent fault which means Miller Argents Environmental Officer is not currently receiving the once daily water quality emails. The probes themselves are still working and hourly data (suspended solids and pH) is</p>

## Ffos-y-fran Land Reclamation Scheme

### Site Progress Report

	<p>still being recorded and the data extracted manually from the probes data cards. No water quality monitoring data has been lost. NRW are aware of the situation and are being kept updated. Investigations are now underway into options for the installation a new 'dial up' communications system.</p> <p><b>Audits</b></p> <p>One planning audit was conducted by MTCBC Planning officers during this quarter on the 17<sup>th</sup> December which covered Cranes and Jibs next to the Railway, Groundwater Monitoring Scheme, Construction Phase Works and Foul and Surface Water Drainage. No issues were raised.</p> <p>In November an Energy Savings Opportunity Scheme (ESOS) audit undertaken. Here an internally produced ESOS report identifying energy use by Miller Argent was reviewed by an external assessor. The report was positively received and the assessor made recommendations for potential energy saving measures that could be implemented as part of daily site operations.</p>
2.0	<p><b>Site labour</b></p> <p><b>Labour Employed On Site = 226 in total (inclusive of contractors)</b></p> <p>32 Staff (inclusive of Cwmbargoed DP)</p> <p>123 operatives employed to date with 87% living within 15km from site.</p> <p>68 Site contractors (Including Coal Haulage, Repair and Maintenance etc.)</p> <p>3 Site contractors for construction of new dense medium coal washing plant.</p>

## Ffos-y-fran Land Reclamation Scheme

### Site Progress Report

3.0	<p><b>Plant Utilisation &amp; Restoration</b></p> <p>All excavators continue to develop cuts 13 – 20 inclusive.</p> <p><b>Restoration</b></p> <p>MTCBC flood defence team have reviewed the Hydrological Analysis Report, including detailed engineering plans of the proposed watercourses and water management ponds, and have confirmed they are now acceptable to the local authority. This report was included as part of the package of information submitted to MTCBC just before Christmas, in respect of the Phase 1 Restoration &amp; Aftercare proposals. In planning terms, the restoration submission (including the hydrology) provide the Council with additional details of an already approved Restoration Scheme (i.e. in May 2007) and should only require the agreement of the respective MTCBC Officers however, the Aftercare proposals will require the full approval of the Council in accordance with Condition No. 53.</p> <p>The sward on the 2015 restoration area is progressing well and there is no evidence of any scouring despite the heavy rainfall recorded in December.</p>
4.0	<p><b>Site production levels to 26/07/2015</b></p> <p>Miller Argent total overburden excavation to date is approximately 79.4 million cubic metres.</p> <p>Coal mined to date is approximately 6.38 million tonnes and dispatched 6.4 million tonnes.</p> <p>39.6million cubic meters of in-pit backfill has been completed.</p> <p>Blasting operations continue on site up to 4 times per day (10.00 – 13.00 hrs &amp; 14.00 -16.00 hrs).</p>
5.0	<p><b>Complaints</b></p> <p>There have been two complaints received since the last liaison report – both of which came in January from the same local resident. One was in relation to offsite fly tipped litter in a ditch leading towards his home, two MA workers were sent to undertake litter picking in the ditch which is likely to be an ongoing task due to the level of illegally fly tipped waste finding its way into the ditch. The second complaint (though the complainant stated it was more of an observation than a complaint) was in relation to blasting on site which he alleged caused vibration– Vibration measurements taken at</p>



## Ffos-y-fran Land Reclamation Scheme

### Site Progress Report

	<p>the time of blasting showed no significant impacts at all and the measured vibrations were well below the permitted planning limits. Details and the outcomes of each of these complaints detailed below have been recorded as part of Miller Argent's procedures.</p> <p>There were no complaints recorded in November or December.</p> <p><b>Community Checks</b></p> <p>MA continue to conduct community checks during start up in the morning and throughout the working day to assess noise/dust/visual impacts of the site within the community to ensure that we remain proactive in our environmental monitoring approach. If necessary e.g. during dry spells, additional and more frequent community checks are undertaken and if necessary, site operations are adjusted e.g. implementation of dust suppression measures following community checks, redeployment of plant to other areas of the site etc.</p>
6.0	<p><b>Dust</b></p> <p>The near constant levels of rain fall throughout this reporting period have resulted in extremely low levels of dust.</p> <p>The TEOM (air quality measurement) machines at Twynyrodyn School have been experiencing an intermittent electrical fault (between the 12<sup>th</sup> Nov – 6<sup>th</sup> Jan) causing the main fuses on the machines to trip. Engineers were called to the site and after two separate visits established that the problem was with a faulty pump on one of the machines. A new pump was installed on the 5<sup>th</sup> of January and this seems to have resolved the issue.</p> <p>The average air quality figures for PM10 particulate dust for the calendar month of November was 8.38µg/m<sup>3</sup>, well below the National Air Quality Objective figure of 50µg/m<sup>3</sup>.</p> <p>Of the data we were able to obtain for December (1<sup>st</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>) it showed that the average air quality figures for PM10 particulate dust was 11.91µg/m</p> <p>The average air quality figures for PM10 particulate dust up to 21st January was 5.9µg/m</p>

## Ffos-y-fran Land Reclamation Scheme

### Site Progress Report

	<p>There have been no Air Quality exceedances recorded at the BAMS air quality monitoring station at the Upper Rhymney Primary School during this period.</p>
7.0	<p><b>Community</b> 171 local groups are registered and regularly use the mini buses.</p> <p><b>Sponsorship</b> Since the last Liaison meeting (in addition to the Ffos-y-fran Community Benefit Fund) Miller Argent approached the Hope Church in Merthyr to offer £120 of financial support towards the cost of providing 40 Christmas meals for their Christmas party for vulnerable individuals in Merthyr. Miller Argent got involved with Finning to collect staff donations for the Merthyr Tydfil Salvation Army's Christmas Present Appeal. An impressive total of £745 was raised.</p> <p><b>Site visits</b> We continue to host site visits as requested by interested parties which vary from local residents through to geology enthusiasts, schools and universities. Since the last meeting we have received no site visit requests.</p> <div data-bbox="284 1263 1326 1942" data-label="Image">  </div> <p>Selection of the toys donated to the Merthyr Tydfil Salvation Army's Christmas Present appeal.</p>



## Ffos-y-fran Land Reclamation Scheme

### Site Progress Report

8.0	<p><b>Environmental</b></p> <p>Miller Argent continues to strive towards excellent standards and environmental works are at the heart of all our operations; our next ISO14001 (Environmental Management System) Audit is scheduled for April 2016.</p> <p><b>Environmental Inspections</b> Monthly Environmental Site Inspections continue to be carried out to ensure operations on site are undertaken responsibly and continue to have no adverse impact on the local environment.</p> <p><b>Tree Planting</b> Tree planting and scrub clearance work undertaken. 200 oak trees planted within the Cwm Golau area of the site.</p> <p><b>Ecology</b> Working with our Ecology Management Plan Technical Working Group of Merthyr Councils Ecology Officer and our independent ecology consultant we set out Miller Argents ecological action plan for the next 6 months.</p> <p><b>Archaeology</b> Extensive archaeological investigations are being undertaken by GGAT of the Pen-y-Waun Fawr building discovered under spoil at the north of the site. Investigations continue.</p>
-----	---

## Ffos-y-fran Land Reclamation Scheme

### Site Progress Report

Old mine adit exposed during recent site operations



Section of historical building uncovered during site operations thought to be related to Iron Industry



## Ffos-y-fran Land Reclamation Scheme

### Site Progress Report



New Miller Argent Community Stadium sign which was erected on the 21<sup>st</sup> January above MTFCs pitch.