

# **Amendment Notice 3**

| Licence Number        | L8558/2011/1   |
|-----------------------|--|
| Licence Holder<br>ACN | Sandfire Resources NL<br>105 154 185   |
| File Number:          | 2011/004602  |
| Premises              | DeGrussa Copper-Gold Project<br>Mining Tenement 52/1046<br>MEEKATHARRA WA 6642 |

#### Amendment

Date of Amendment

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) has amended the above Licence in accordance with section 59 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) as set out in this Amendment Notice. This Amendment Notice constitutes written notice of the amendment in accordance with section 59B(9) of the EP Act.

30 January 2019

#### Alana Kidd

#### Manager, Resource Industries

an officer delegated under section 20 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 (WA)

# **Definitions and interpretation**

## **Definitions**

In this Amendment Notice, the terms in Table 1 have the meanings defined.

## Table 1: Definitions

| Term                          | Definition   |
|-------------------------------|--|
| ACN                           | Australian Company Number  |
| Amendment Notice              | refers to this document  |
| AEP                           | Annual Exceedance Probability  |
| AHD                           | Australian Height Datum  |
| Category/ Categories/<br>Cat. | categories of Prescribed Premises as set out in Schedule 1 of the EP Regulations   |
| CEO                           | means Chief Executive Officer.<br>CEO for the purposes of notification means:<br>Director General<br>Department Administering the <i>Environmental Protection Act</i><br><i>1986</i><br>Locked Bag 33 Cloisters Square<br>PERTH WA 6850<br>info@dwer.wa.gov.au |
| Delegated Officer             | an officer under section 20 of the EP Act  |
| Department                    | means the department established under section 35 of the <i>Public Sector Management Act 1994</i> and designated as responsible for the administration of Part V, Division 3 of the EP Act.  |
| DMIRS                         | Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety  |
| DWER                          | Department of Water and Environmental Regulation   |
| EP Act                        | Environmental Protection Act 1986 (WA)   |
| EP Regulations                | Environmental Protection Regulations 1987 (WA)   |
| Existing Licence              | The Licence issued under Part V, Division 3 of the EP Act and in force prior to the commencement of and during this Review   |
| IWL                           | Integrated Waste Landform  |
| km                            | kilometre  |

| Licence Holder<br>Licensee | Sandfire Resources NL  |
|----------------------------|--|
| m³                         | cubic metres   |
| m/s                        | metres per second  |
| mbgl                       | metres below ground level  |
| Occupier                   | has the same meaning given to that term under the EP Act.  |
| PAF                        | Potentially Acid Forming   |
| Prescribed Premises        | has the same meaning given to that term under the EP Act.  |
| Premises                   | refers to the premises to which this Decision Report applies, as specified at the front of this Decision Report. |
| PEC                        | Priority Ecological Community  |
| Risk Event                 | as described in Guidance Statement: Risk Assessment  |
| RIWI Act                   | Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914  |
| TSF                        | Tailings Storage Facility  |
| UDR                        | Environmental Protection (Unauthorised Discharges) Regulations 2004 (WA)   |

## **Amendment Notice**

This amendment is made pursuant to section 59 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) to amend the Licence issued under the EP Act for a prescribed premises as set out below. This notice of amendment is given under section 59B(9) of the EP Act.

This notice is limited only to an amendment for Category 5. No changes to the aspects of the Licence relating to Categories 6, 52, 54 or 64 have been requested by the Licence Holder.

The following guidance statements have informed the decision made on this amendment:

- Guidance Statement: Regulatory Principles (July 2015)
- Guidance Statement: Setting Conditions (October 2015)
- Guidance Statement: Decision Making (February 2017)
- Guidance Statement: Risk Assessment (February 2017)
- Guidance Statement: Environmental Siting (November 2016)

## **Amendment description**

Sandfire Resources NL (Sandfire Resources) (Licence Holder) (Applicant) operates the DeGrussa Copper-Gold Project through Licence L8558/2011/1 (Licence). The prescribed activities authorised through the Licence are described below.

| Category<br>number | Category description                       | Category production<br>or design capacity | Approved Premises<br>production or design<br>capacity |
|--------------------|--|---|---|
| 5                  | Processing or beneficiation of metallic or | 50,000 tonnes or                          | 2,050,000 tonnes                                      |
|                    | non-metallic ore                           | more per year                             | per annual period                                     |
| 6                  | Mine dewatering                            | 50,000 tonnes or                          | 2,000,000 tonnes                                      |
|                    |  | more per year                             | per annual period                                     |
| 52                 | Electric power generation:                 | 10 megawatts or                           | 23 megawatts in                                       |
|                    |  | more in aggregate                         | aggregate   |
|                    |  | (using a fuel other                       |   |
|                    |  | than natural gas)                         |   |
| 54                 | Sewage facility                            | 100 cubic metres or                       | 240 cubic metres                                      |
|                    |  | more per day                              | per day   |
| 64                 | Class II putrescible landfill              | 20 tonnes or more                         | 1,300 tonnes per                                      |
|                    |  | per year                                  | annual period   |

Sandfire Resources submitted an application to DWER on 14 November 2018 to amend the Licence for construction and operation of Stage 4 and 5 lifts of the DeGrussa Tailings Storage Facility (TSF).

There are no proposed changes to the existing footprint or TSF operating methodology.

## Background

The layout of key infrastructure on site is shown in Figure 1 below.

Ore is processed through a crushing and screening plant, then a flotation circuit to produce copper product. A small amount of ore is sent to the nearby Plutonic Gold Mine for processing to produce gold. Ore trucked in from the Monty project is also processed on the Premises.

The TSF has been operating since 2012. The facility is within an Integrated Waste Landform, with wet tailings deposited into a circular impoundment surrounded by waste rock. The TSF has been constructed in three stages to its current approved height of 575.5 Australian Height Datum (AHD).

The inner impoundment has a composite HDPE (base 2 mm and sides 1 mm) overlying a compacted clay liner.

An underdrainage collection system extends along the upstream toe of the Stage 1 embankment and this will be maintained during Stage 4 and 5 operations. Approximately 400 m<sup>3</sup>/day of seepage return water is currently recovered from the underdrainage system.

The TSF is inspected daily.

Stormwater from operational areas including the TSF, ROM Pad and Paste Plant are collected and either re-used within the operations or directed to settlement ponds.

## **Proposed Lifts**

The existing TSF is anticipated to reach storage capacity by June 2019. Sandfire proposes to raise the TSF perimeter embankments via a further two x 5 metre (m) lifts (Stage 4 and Stage 5) to increase the tailings storage capacity on site.

Construction of the two lifts will increase the TSF embankment height from 17 m to 27 m above ground level, and the final height of the TSF within the IWL height of 35 m.

Commencement of Stage 4 works is planned for February 2019 with construction completed in April 2019. Stage 5 works are expected to commence in February 2022 (if required).

The two lifts have been designed to conform to the Code of Practice for Tailings Storage Facilities in Western Australia and the ANCOLD Guidelines on Tailings Dams Planning Design, Construction, Operation and Closure.

The Stage 4 and Stage 5 embankment liner system will be similar to the existing TSF design. The composite liner system will be extended up the inner slopes of the facility and consist of:

- Zone C general waste rock with a hydraulic conductivity of 10<sup>-5</sup> m/s.
- Zone B track rolled mine waste providing a hydraulic conductivity of 10<sup>-6</sup> m/s.
- Zone A compacted homogeneous low permeability material providing a hydraulic conductivity of greater than 10<sup>-7</sup> m/s (5 m width).
- HDPE 1 mm HDPE with hydraulic conductivity of greater than 10<sup>-12</sup> m/s.

Each lift of the inner containment zones will be laid back against the surrounding mine waste, and HDPE liner will be extended up the face of the Zone A lifts (see Figures 2 & 3) and anchored in a trench around the inner perimeter. To facilitate a two-stage lift and anchoring of the HDPE, a 10 m wide bench excavation will be required into the Zone B upstream slopes of the existing landform (Figures 2 and 3). Material from the excavation will be used to construct infill Zone B embankments in a surface depression in the southern section of the waste rock perimeter.

#### Figure 1: Infrastructure layout





Figure 2: TSF Stage 4 and 5 – general layout.





## **Tailings Discharge**

The existing pipeline and spigot system will be lifted onto Stage 4 and Stage 5 inner embankments. The decant tower and causeway will also be raised with each lift.

### **Decant water management**

The TSF catchment is contained within the outer perimeter of the waste rock embankment crest. Each Stage is designed to contain up to 1.2 million cubic metres additional tailings storage and provide sufficient stormwater capacity to hold rainfall associated with a 1 in 100 year Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP), 72 hour event, plus a 0.5 m freeboard (MBS, 2018).

## **Tailings geochemical characterisation**

Tailings deposition into the proposed Stage 4 and 5 TSF raises will consist of tailings generated from processing of the following ore types:

- DeGrussa ore; and
- Monty ore.

Geochemical characterisation studies for these ore types determined that Monty and DeGrussa tailings are Potentially Acid Forming (PAF) materials. Monty tailings are considered to be geochemically compatible with DeGrussa tailings for co-disposal in the lined DeGrussa IWL. Monty tailings have similar geochemical properties to the DeGrussa tailings, but are less sulphidic and generally contain lower concentrations of chalcophile metals and metalloids, and higher concentrations of tellurium, thorium, uranium, and vanadium (Mine Proposal Reg. ID 64481).

The tailings slurry is acidic (pH 3) though measured pH in the decant water has been around pH 6 (ATC Williams, 2018).

## **EP Act Part V – licences and works approvals**

Table 2 provides the history of works approvals and licences for the premises.

| Instrument   | Commenced   | Description   |  |  |
|--------------|-------------|---|--|--|
| L8558/2011/1 | 23/06/2011  | New Application - Category 54   |  |  |
| W4960/2011/1 | 7 July 2011 | New Application for Works Approval – Categories 5, 52 and 73  |  |  |
| L8558/2011/1 | 9/02/2012   | Amended to include category 5, 6, and 64  |  |  |
| L8558/2011/1 | 22/11/2012  | Licence amendment – Administration error  |  |  |
| L8558/2011/1 | 9/05/2013   | Licence amendment – Increase category 6 throughput  |  |  |
| L8558/2011/1 | 20/06/2013  | Licence amendment – Change to monitoring targets  |  |  |
| L8558/2011/1 | 1/08/2013   | Licence amendment – Increase category 6 throughput  |  |  |
| W5697/2014/1 | 18/08/2014  | New application for works approval – Category 6 and 64  |  |  |
| L8558/2011/1 | 9/10/2014   | Licence amendment – REFIRE format conversion and incorporate changes from completed works under W5697/2014/1. |  |  |

 Table 2: History of works approvals and licences issued

| L8558/2011/1 | 27/11/2014 | Licence amendment – construction of additional dewater pipelines to provide for discharge up to 200 L/s.  |
|--------------|------------|---|
| W5866/2015/1 | 19/10/2015 | New works approval – increase cat 6 throughput and additional dewater discharge points to Central Drainage and John's Creek, and expansion of the landfill.   |
| L8558/2011/1 | 3/12/2015  | Licence amendment – to increase category 5 throughput and installation of synthetic liner to the TSF  |
| L8558/2011/1 | 26/04/2016 | Notice of Amendment to extend licence duration to 23/12/2026  |
| L8558/2011/1 | 18/09/2017 | Amendment Notice to increase Category 52 design/production to 23 MW by additional of 2 x 2 MW power units.  |
| L8558/2011/1 | 9/05/2018  | Amendment Notice 2 for: installation of a larger thickener and filter to increase grade and volume of concentrate produced (assessment included processing ore from the Monty Mine deposit); installation of deeper replacement TSF monitoring bores; operation of dewatering discharge to Central Creek; and removal of Cat 52 commissioning conditions. |
| L8558/2011/1 | 30/01/2019 | Amendment Notice 3 for Stage 4 and 5 lifts of the TSF.  |

## **Other approvals**

Other approvals relating to the amendment are outlined in Table 3.

#### Table 3: Relevant approvals

| Legislation     | Number        | Approval  |
|-----------------|---------------|---|
| Mining Act 1978 | Reg. ld 30745 | Mining Proposal for Stage 2 of the DeGrussa Copper-Gold Project<br>on M52/1046 – decided 03/08/2011   |
|                 | Reg. ld 64481 | Mining Proposal - Revised ROM Pad Ramp and Minor<br>Infrastructure - DeGrussa Copper Mine – decided 27/04/2017  |
|                 | Reg. ld 77058 | Mining Proposal for TSF Embankment Raise (Stages 4 and 5)<br>DeGrussa Copper Mine - M52/1046 - Sandfire Resources NL -<br>November 2018 – decided 10/01/2019. |

## **Location and receptors**

The DeGrussa Copper Mine is located approximately 150 km north of Meekatharra. The closest sensitive land uses to the Premises are listed in Table 4.

#### Table 4: Sensitive land uses and distance from the premises

| Residential and sensitive premises | Distance from Prescribed Premises |  |  |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Doolgunna station homestead        | 18 km south west of the premises  |  |  |
| Meekatharra                        | 150 km south of the premises      |  |  |

Table 5 below lists relevant environmental receptors and distances from the Prescribed Premises.

| Table 5: Environmental receptors | Table | 5: | Environmental | receptors |
|----------------------------------|-------|----|---------------|-----------|
|----------------------------------|-------|----|---------------|-----------|

| Specified eco-systems – biological component  | Distance from Prescribed Premises  |
|---|--|
| Parks and Wildlife Managed Lands and Waters   | The Premises is on unallocated crown land (Former Doolgunna station) that is proposed for addition to the conservation estate. |
| Priority 1 Priority Ecological Communities (PEC) -<br>Doolgunna Calcrete PEC and Robinson Range PEC         | Doolgunna Calcrete PEC located approximately 3.5 km west of the premises.  |
|   | Robinson Range PEC located approximately 5 km west of the premises.  |
| Priority 3 PEC - Blech Land System  | Blech Land System located approximately 10 km north east of the premises   |
| Threatened/Priority Flora   | The nearest record of priority flora is located approximately 8 km to the south east of the premises.                          |
| Threatened/Priority Fauna   | The nearest record of threatened or priority fauna is located approximately 46 km to the north east of the premises.           |
| Public Drinking Water Sources Area  | None within the premises or the local vicinity.  |
| <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> (RIWI Act) proclaimed area - East Murchison Groundwater Area | Premises is located within the area.   |
| RIWI Act Area proclaimed area - Gascoyne River and Tributaries  | Premises is located within the area.   |

## Hydrogeology

MBS (2018) reports that the hydrogeology of the site is characterised by low permeability saprolite clays and bedrock with minor fracturing.

ATC Willams (2018) reports that prior to construction, a geotechnical investigation was carried out in 2010 at the TSF site and the general stratigraphy encountered was typically characterised as;

- Alluvial sheetwash deposits of gravelly silt to depths of less than 1 m;
- Cemented Ferricrete hardpan between 3.4 m and 6.4 m thick; and
- Alluvial channel deposits of gravelly silt.

ATC Williams (2018) provides a summary of a review of the mine hydrogeology conducted by RPS in 2016, which is further summarised below.

The regional extensive stratigraphic unit is the Johnson Cairn Formation. The presence of a significant dolomite aquifer in the Johnson Cairn Formation was not identified at the time of the original hydrogeological investigations. The Johnson Cairn Formation comprises dolomite, dolomitic siltstone and shale. The unit occurs around the margins of a large basinal structure and has been subjected to extensive jointing and fracturing during slumping on the basin margin. The unit is deeply weathered (down to 400 m depth in places) and some karst development has been reported.

The aquifer system is characterised by the:

• Main aquifer zone – highly variable moderate to high permeability aquifer with good hydraulic connection within this section.

 Secondary aquifer zone – highly variable low to moderate permeability aquifer within the rest of the Johnson Cairn Formation. Hydraulic connection within the secondary aquifer zone and with the main aquifer zone will be variable and linked to fracture/joint connection between pods of higher permeability.

A palaeodrainage channel exists to the north of the DeGrussa Pit and extends beneath the TSF. The channel forms a tributary of the main trunk palaeochannel to the west in which the mine water supply borefield was installed.

The palaeochannel sediments are inferred to have a low to very low permeability and do not form an aquifer (but rather they form an aquitard or aquiclude).

The locations of the palaeochannel and aquifer system are relative to the TSF and monitoring bores is shown in Figure 4.



Figure 4: Palaeochannel and regional aquifer system

## Groundwater

Groundwater quality is generally fresh to slightly brackish, neutral to slightly alkaline with a naturally high nitrate/nitrite concentration. Dominant ions include sodium, chloride and bicarbonate. Groundwater quality is suitable for stock drinking water (ANZECC 2000).

Prior to the commencement of mining, groundwater was present just below the hardpan layer, 6 to 10 metres below ground level (mbgl). Standing water levels have generally fallen in response to mine dewatering and are currently range from about 8 to 14 mbgl around the IWL (MBS, 2018).

Groundwater is likely to broadly flow west across the project area.

## **Surface water**

Three Minor Non Perennial Watercourses intersect the premises and drain west northwest into a Non Perennial tributary of the Gascoyne River as shown in Figure 5 below. The Gascoyne River is located 40 km from the premises.

The project area is characterised by low lying gently sloping ground. (ATC Williams, 2018).

The TSF was sited in an area of sheet flow. According to MBS (2018) the facility has been shown to have minimal effect on sheet-flows after high rainfall events. MBS reports that surrounded by mine waste, the TSF receives only incidental rainfall which is collected from the decant tower and returned to the process plant for reuse.



Figure 5: Surface water features

## **Risk assessment**

Tables 6 and 7 below describe the Risk Events associated with the amendment consistent with the *Guidance Statement: Risk Assessments*. Both tables identify whether the emissions present a material risk to public health or the environment, requiring regulatory controls.

|  | Table 6: Risk ass | sessment for proposed | d amendments during | construction |
|--|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------|
|--|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------|

| Risk Event  |  |  |  |   |                                       |  |        |   |
|---|--|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|--------|---|
| Source /<br>Activities  | Potential emissions                      | Potential receptors  | Potential<br>pathway   | Potential<br>adverse<br>impacts   | Consequence rating                    | Likelihood<br>rating   | Risk   | Reasoning   |
| Earthmoving<br>activities<br>associated with<br>construction of<br>the TSF Stage 4<br>and Stage 5 lifts | Dust                                     | Doolgunna<br>station - 18<br>km SW of<br>the<br>premises                                   | Air  | Health and<br>amenity<br>impacts  | N/A                                   | N/A  | N/A    | Distance to closest sensitive land use is sufficient to inform the risk of dust emissions as not foreseeable.<br>The general provisions of the EP Act are applicable.   |
|   | Noise                                    | Doolgunna<br>station - 18<br>km south<br>west of the<br>premises                           | Air  | Amenity<br>impacts  | N/A                                   | N/A  | N/A    | Distance to closest Specified Ecosystem is sufficient to inform<br>the risk of noise emissions as not foreseeable.<br>The <i>Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997</i> are<br>applicable.   |
|   | Storm<br>water<br>laden with<br>sediment | Surface<br>water<br>bodies and<br>vegetation<br>in the path<br>of the<br>sediment<br>load. | Path of<br>stormwater<br>flow                                    | Erosion, or<br>increased<br>sediment load<br>– smothering<br>vegetation.          | Minor<br>Low level on<br>site impacts | Unlikely<br>The risk event<br>will probably<br>not occur in<br>most<br>circumstances | Medium | The closest Specified Ecosystem is 3.5 km from the premises<br>boundary.<br>Surface water on the premises are ephemeral minor drainage<br>lines. Construction is of relatively short duration.<br><u>Regulatory controls</u><br>The Environmental Protection (Unauthorised Discharges)<br>Regulations 2004 (WA) are applicable. |
| Refueling of construction vehicles.   | Fuel spills                              | Soils and ground   | Direct<br>discharge<br>and<br>infiltration<br>through<br>ground. | Hydrocarbon<br>contamination<br>of soils and<br>groundwater of<br>beneficial use. | Minor<br>Low level on<br>site impacts | Unlikely<br>The risk event<br>will probably<br>not occur in<br>most<br>circumstances | Medium | The closest sensitive environmental receptor is 3.5 km from the premises boundary and impact is contained to the area of the spill. Surface water on the premises are ephemeral minor drainage lines. Groundwater is approximately 10 mbgl. Regulatory controls   |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | The Environmental Protection (Unauthorised Discharges)<br>Regulations 2004 (WA) are applicable. |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|

## Table 7: Risk assessment for proposed amendments during operation

| Risk Event   |  |  |   |  |  |  |        |  |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|--------|--|
| Source / Activities  | Potential emissions  | Potential receptors  | Potential pathway                                 | Potential<br>adverse<br>impacts  | Conseque<br>nce rating   | Likelihood<br>rating   | Risk   | Reasoning  |
| Tailings disposal into the<br>TSF with embankment<br>heights to:<br>Stage 4<br>580.0 m RL<br>Stage 5<br>585.0 m RL | Tailings dust  | Doolgunna<br>station - 18<br>km south<br>west of the<br>premises<br>Native<br>vegetation,<br>fauna | Air   | Health impacts<br>Contamination<br>of soils and<br>uptake of<br>toxicants by<br>vegetation<br>entering the<br>food chain | Minor<br>Low level<br>on site<br>impacts &<br>minimal<br>off-site<br>impacts | Rare<br>The risk event<br>will probably<br>not occur in<br>most<br>circumstances | Low    | The closest sensitive land user is 18 km away.<br>The closest Specified Ecosystem is 3.5 km from the premises boundary.<br>Tailings are located inside the waste dump with some protection from wind which may reduce the potential for dust generation.<br>Dust suppression on the tailings surface during operation is managed by maintaining a regular deposition cycle of wet tailings around the perimeter.<br>Regulatory controls The general provisions of the EP Act are applicable. |
|  | Tailings<br>release by<br>dam wall<br>break,<br>seismic<br>activity, land<br>sink. | Soils,<br>ephemeral<br>streams,<br>native<br>vegetation<br>and fauna.                              | Direct<br>discharge<br>and flow<br>path           | Contamination<br>of soils, impacts<br>to native<br>vegetation and<br>fauna in the<br>vicinity of the<br>flow path.       | N/A  | N/A  | N/A    | Outside of scope: Department of Mines, Industry<br>Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) assesses and<br>regulates structural stability of the TSF.  |
|  | Tailings<br>leachate –<br>(acidic and<br>containing                                | Ground<br>water with<br>beneficial<br>use (suitable  | Seepage<br>of tailings<br>leachate<br>through the | Contamination<br>of groundwater<br>of beneficial<br>use.   | Moderate<br>Specific<br>consequen<br>ce criteria                             | Unlikely<br>The risk event<br>will probably<br>not occur in                      | Medium | Seepage may be acidic and contain toxic metals and metalloids. Contamination of groundwater may impact on water resources of beneficial use.   |

| met<br>met<br>incl<br>arse<br>sele<br>tellu<br>thor | etals and<br>etalloids<br>cluding<br>senic,<br>ilenium<br>llurium,<br>orium,<br>orium, | for livestock<br>watering)  | walls and<br>base of the<br>TSF and<br>infiltrating<br>through<br>ground. |  | (ANZECC<br>2000) are<br>at risk of<br>not being<br>met. | most<br>circumstances  |        | Prior to dewatering groundwater was 6 to 10 mbgl,<br>and is now in the range of 8 to 14 mbgl. Minor<br>fractures occur in the underlying bedrock.<br>Groundwater monitoring at the TSF has not indicated<br>increased concentrations of potential contaminates.<br>There is no vegetation of conservation significance  |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|--|--------|---|
|   | nadium)  | Soils and<br>vegetation in<br>the vicinity of<br>mounding<br>within the<br>root zone. |   | Contamination<br>of soils/and<br>uptake of<br>toxicants by<br>vegetation<br>(including<br>riparian<br>vegetation of<br>ephemeral<br>watercourses)<br>and entering the<br>food chain. | Moderate<br>Mid-level<br>on site<br>impacts             | Unlikely<br>The risk event<br>will probably<br>not occur in<br>most<br>circumstances | Medium | <ul> <li>Within 3.5 km.</li> <li>Un-named ephemeral drainage systems are located<br/>on either side of the Integrated Waste Landform (see<br/>Figures 1 and 4).</li> <li><u>Applicant controls</u></li> <li>Embankment liner design is compacted low<br/>permeability material (permeability of 10<sup>-7</sup> m/s)<br/>overlain by a HDPE liner (permeability of 10<sup>-12</sup> m/s).</li> <li>Stages 4 and 5 construction will be in accordance with<br/>the TSF Design Report by ATC Williams (2018).</li> <li>The base of the TSF is lined with 2 mm HDPE<br/>installed over a compacted clay layer.</li> <li>An underdrainage collection system extends along the<br/>upstream toe of the Stage 1 embankment, and will be<br/>maintained during construction and operation of Stage<br/>4 and Stage 5.</li> <li>Tailings distribution network will be maintained to<br/>distribute tailings evenly to promote drying. The<br/>existing pipeline and spigot system will be lifted onto<br/>Stage 4 and Stage 5 inner embankments and the<br/>decant tower and causeway raised.</li> <li>The TSF is visually inspected daily.</li> <li><u>Regulatory controls</u><br/>Applicant controls have minimised the likelihood of the<br/>risk of seepage and will be conditioned on the<br/>Licence.</li> <li>Applicant controls for operating the TSF are<br/>conditioned by the existing Licence and no change is<br/>required.</li> </ul> |

| Tailings and<br>stormwater<br>overflow<br>(acidic and<br>containing<br>metals and<br>metalloids<br>including<br>arsenic,<br>selenium<br>tellurium,<br>thorium,<br>uranium, and<br>vanadium). | Soils,<br>surface<br>water and<br>vegetation in<br>the path of<br>the overflow | Direct<br>discharge<br>and flow<br>path | Contamination<br>of soils/and<br>uptake of<br>toxicants by<br>vegetation<br>(including<br>riparian<br>vegetation of<br>ephemeral<br>watercourses)<br>and entering the<br>food chain. | Moderate<br>Mid-level<br>on site<br>impacts | Unlikely<br>The risk event<br>will probably<br>not occur in<br>most<br>circumstances | Medium | The closest Specified Ecosystem is 3.5 km from the premises boundary.<br>The TSF is constructed on a in a relatively flat area and is located within a waste rock dump.<br>Un-named ephemeral drainage systems are located on either side of the Integrated Waste Landform (see Figures 1 and 4).<br><u>Applicant controls</u><br>The lifts are designed for anticipated tailings capacity and to maintain a1:100 AEP, 72 hr run-off superimposed on normal operating pond plus 0.5 m total freeboard.<br><u>Regulatory controls</u><br>Applicant controls have minimised the risk and will be conditioned on the Licence.   |
|--|--|---|--|---|--|--------|--|
| Tailings and<br>return<br>spillage from<br>pipeline<br>spills<br>/ruptures   | Soils,<br>surface<br>water and<br>vegetation in<br>the path of<br>the overflow | Direct<br>discharge<br>and flow<br>path | Contamination<br>of soils/and<br>uptake of<br>toxicants by<br>vegetation<br>(including<br>riparian<br>vegetation of<br>ephemeral<br>watercourses)<br>and entering the<br>food chain. | Moderate<br>Mid-level<br>on site<br>impacts | Unlikely<br>The risk event<br>will probably<br>not occur in<br>most<br>circumstances | Medium | The closest Specified Ecosystem is 3.5 km from the premises boundary.<br>Tailings pipeline crosses an un-named ephemeral drainage system (see Figures 1).<br><u>Applicant controls</u><br>The existing tailings delivery network and operation including visual inspection will be maintained. At the TSF, the pipeline and spigot system will be lifted onto the Stage 4 and 5 inner embankments.<br><u>Regulatory controls</u><br>The existing licence condition 1.3.6 requires daily visual inspection of tailings and return pipelines.<br>Condition 1.3.7 requires the pipelines to be either equipped with sensors and auto cutoffs in the event of leaks or failure, or provided with secondary controls are required as a consequence of the proposed TSF lifts. |

## Decision

Approval for construction and operation of the Stage 4 and Stage 5 lifts is granted. Applicant controls are conditioned on the Licence where they have lowered risk, as outlined in Table 7.

Condition 1.3.4 of the existing licence requires the TSF containment to be lined to achieve a permeability of 1 x  $10^{-9}$  m/s. This condition remains applicable following construction of each lift.

Conditions 1.3.5 and 1.3.6 of the existing licence for maintaining freeboard of 500 mm and for daily inspection of the TSF, remain applicable for operation of the TSF following construction of each lift.

Condition 3.5.1 of the existing licence for groundwater monitoring at the TSF remains applicable.

Construction compliance documents will be required to be submitted prior to operation.

## **Licence Holder's comments**

The Licence Holder was provided with the draft Amendment Notice on 15 January 2019 for review and comment. The Licence Holder responded on 15 January 2019 with no comments and waiving the remaining comment period.

## Amendment

#### 1. The Licence is amended by the insertion of the following Condition 1.3.10:

 
 1.3.10
 The Licensee must construct and undertake the Works for the infrastructure and equipment specified in Column 1 to the requirements specified in Column 2, of Table

 1.3.7 below:

| Table 1.3.7: Construction Requirements         |   |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| Column 1                                       | Column 2  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Infrastructure/Equipment                       | Requirements (design, construction and location)  |  |  |  |  |  |
| TSF embankment Stage 4                         | Embankment crest elevation 580.0 m RL   |  |  |  |  |  |
| TSF embankment Stage 5                         | Embankment crest elevation 585.0 m RL<br>Final landform height 27 m (within IWL height of 35 m)   |  |  |  |  |  |
| TSF Embankment Design -<br>Stage 4 and Stage 5 | Constructed as depicted in Schedule 1: Maps: "Map of TSF<br>Stage 4 and 5 – general layout" and "TSF Design –<br>Sections" (both from Mining Proposal for TSF Embankment<br>Raise (Stages 4 and 5) DeGrussa Copper Mine - M52/1046,<br>prepared by MBS Environmental, November 2018). |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Zone A - 5 m width and constructed of compacted low permeability material (permeability of greater than $10^{-7}$ m/s), overlain by a 1 mm thick HDPE liner (permeability greater than $10^{-12}$ m/s).   |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Each lift of the inner containment zones laid back against<br>the surrounding mine waste and HDPE liner extended up<br>the face of the Zone A lifts and anchored in a trench around<br>the inner perimeter.   |  |  |  |  |  |
| TSF Stage 4 and Stage 5                        | Each Stage constructed and designed to contain up to 1.2 million cubic metres additional tailings storage, and provide sufficient stormwater capacity to hold rainfall  |  |  |  |  |  |

|                                     | associated with a 1 in 100 year Annual Exceedance<br>Probability 72 hour event, plus a 0.5 m freeboard.  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| TSF underdrainage collection system | Underdrainage collection system extends along the upstream toe of the Stage 1 embankment, maintained during construction and operation of Stage 4 and Stage 5. |
| Tailings distribution               | The existing decant tower raised.<br>Existing pipelines and spigot system lifted onto the Stage 4<br>and Stage 5 inner embankments.                            |

# 2. The Licence is amended by the inclusion of the text in Table 4.3.1 as shown in bold underline text below.

| Table 4.3.1: N                         | lotification requirements   |   |                                 |
|--|---|---|---------------------------------|
| Condition<br>or table<br>(if relevant) | Parameter   | Notification requirement <sup>1</sup>   | Format<br>or form <sup>2</sup>  |
| -                                      | Any failure or malfunction of<br>any pollution control<br>equipment or any incident,<br>which has caused, is causing<br>or may cause pollution.   | Part A: As soon as practicable but no<br>later than 5pm of the next usual working<br>day.<br>Part B: As soon as practicable   | N1                              |
| <u>Table 1.3.7</u>                     | Construction Compliance<br>Report certifying each item<br>of infrastructure or<br>component of<br>infrastructure specified in<br>Column 1 of Table 1.3.7<br>has been constructed with<br>no material defects and to<br>the requirements specified<br>in Column 2.<br>The report must be<br>prepared or reviewed by a<br>person with tertiary<br>qualifications in Civil or<br>Geotechnical Engineering<br>and at least two years<br>employment in<br>geotechnical structures. | Within 60 days of the completion of<br>each Stage of the Works specified in<br>Column 1 of Table 1.3.7, and prior to<br>deposition of tailings into the<br>completed Stage. | <u>None</u><br><u>specified</u> |
| Table 2.3.2                            | Limit exceedance  | Within 72 hours of becoming aware that a limit has been exceeded.   |                                 |

Map of TSF Stage 4 and 5 – general layout



#### **TSF Design - Sections**



# Appendix 1: Key documents

|   | Document title  | In text ref               | Availability                          |
|---|---|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | Application: PDF Application Form<br>including Attachments, received by<br>email: From Karen Ganza, MBS<br>Environmental, 14/11/2018 3:08 PM.<br>DeGrussa TSF Lifts (Stages 4 and 5)  | Application               | DWER Records (A1739584)               |
| 2 | ATC Williams, October 2018.<br>DeGrussa Copper Mine, IWL TSF<br>Stage 4 & 5 Design. Prepared for<br>Sandfire Resources NL.  | ATC Williams,<br>2018     | DWER Records (A1739584)               |
| 3 | Australian and New Zealand<br>Environment and Conservation<br>Council, (ANZECC) and Agriculture<br>and Resource Management Council<br>of Australia and New Zealand<br>(ARMCANZ). 2000. Australian and<br>New Zealand guidelines for fresh and<br>marine water quality. Volume 1, The<br>Guidelines / Australian and New<br>Zealand Environment and<br>Conservation Council, Agriculture and<br>Resource Management Council of<br>Australia and New Zealand. | ANZECC 2000<br>Guidelines | DWER Records (A1739584)               |
| 4 | MBS Environmental, November 2018.<br>Mining Proposal For TSF<br>Embankment Raise (Stages 4 and 5)<br>DeGrussa Copper Mine - M52/1046.<br>Prepared for Sandfire Resources NL.  | MBS, 2018                 |                                       |
| 5 | DER, July 2015. <i>Guidance Statement:</i><br><i>Regulatory principles.</i> Department of<br>Environment Regulation, Perth.   | -                         | accessed at <u>www.dwer.wa.gov.au</u> |
| 6 | DER, October 2015. <i>Guidance</i><br><i>Statement: Setting conditions.</i><br>Department of Environment<br>Regulation, Perth.  | -                         |                                       |
| 7 | DER, November 2016. <i>Guidance</i><br><i>Statement: Environmental Siting.</i><br>Department of Environment<br>Regulation, Perth.   | -                         |                                       |
| 8 | DER, February 2017. <i>Guidance</i><br><i>Statement: Risk Assessments.</i><br>Department of Environment<br>Regulation, Perth.   | -                         |                                       |

| 9 | DER, February 2017. <i>Guidance Statement: Decision Making.</i><br>Department of Environment Regulation, Perth. | - |  |
|---|---|---|--|
|---|---|---|--|