



Report to the Department of Health

By

Nickel West Leinster Operations

for the period

1st of October to 31st of December 2023

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1.0 Water Provider Information

Water provider contact details	
Name of Company	BHP Nickel West Pty Ltd
Company Address	Level 43 125 St Georges Tce, Perth WA 6000
DoH Liaison Officer	Heather Little
DoH Liaison Officer Email	heather.little@bhp.com
DoH Liaison Contact #	0405 585 229

1.1. System Information

BHP Nickel West Leinster Nickel Operations is located 370 km north of Kalgoorlie. The Leinster Nickel Operations cover large mineral tenement landholdings incorporating several Nickel deposits and facilities including:

- Underground mining
- Nickel Sulphide Concentrator Facility
- Leinster township (residential area, commercial facilities and SPQ accommodation village)

Average population on any given day at this location is 1000 people.

1.1.1. Drinking Water Supply System

Drinking water for the mine site and township of Leinster is sourced from the 11 mile bore field that sits 6 km equidistant from both locations. The raw water from this bore field has historically raised levels of salinity and nitrates.

Water is stored at the 11-mile water transfer station (390 kilolitres) and is gas chlorinated prior to being pumped to storage facilities located at town and the mine site.

The town reticulation network includes a 3 million litre buffer tank which provides holding capacity and distribution head pressure. There are two reverse osmosis (RO) units located at the dry mess facility and the town medical centre to deliver higher quality water.

The mine site has storage capacity of 1.6 megalitres. Water quality improvement is achieved via in-line filters (4 stage filters; particulate removal class 3; taste / odour removal class 4; calcium removal) at designated drinking water facilities.

Drinking water supplied by BHP complies with the health-related criteria, as outlined in version 3.7 of the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG).

1.2. Number of Drinking Water Sampling Points

Table 1 below provides the number of drinking water sample points maintained. Source water sample points are included in the monitoring program to provide data relating to changes in chemistry and microbiology of pre-treatment water. As these points are not indicative of the quality of drinking water provided for consumption, only consumer or distribution sample point information is collated in this quarterly report.

Table 1: Drinking Water Sampling Points		
Region	Consumer / Distribution Points	Source Water Points (11 mile)
Leinster	16	1

2.0 Performance Summary

Table 2 below provides the number of microbiological water samples completed throughout quarter four. The required number assessed, number within compliance and any variance within the sampling quota.

Table 2: Drinking Water Sampling Performance Summary			
Microbiological Quality	No. assessed	No. compliant	Variance
<i>Thermotolerant coliforms / E.coli</i>	66	66	0
<i>Amoeba (Thermophilic Naegleria)</i>	66	66	0
<i>Chemical - Health</i>	113	37	76
<i>Chemical - Aesthetic</i>	137	102	35
<i>Radiological</i>	2	2	0

3.0 Microbial Performance

Table 3 below provides a summary of microbiological compliance, including samples that require DoH notification and remedial actions.

Table 3: Microbiological - Compliance						
Region/ Scheme/ Zone	Date	Microbiological Characteristic	Alert Level	Remedial Actions	Date DOH notified	Close out date
QUARTER 4 2023				No issues to report		

4.0 Chemical - Health Related Performance

Table 4: Leinster Distribution Water Chemical Health Performance				
	Analyses Completed	ADWG Compliant	Variance	Maximum recorded value
Antimony (0.003 mg/L)	2	2	0	<0.001
Arsenic (0.01 mg/L)	0	0	0	0
Cadmium (0.002 mg/L)	2	2	0	<0.001
Copper (2 mg/L)	2	2	0	0.075
Cyanide (0.08 mg/L)	0	0	0	0
Fluoride (1.5 mg/L)	0	0	0	0
Iodide (0.5 mg/L)	0	0	0	0
Lead (0.01 mg/L)	2	2	0	<0.001
Nickel (0.02 mg/L)	2	2	0	<0.001
Nitrate (50 mg/L)	103	27	76	81
Nitrite (3 mg/L)	0	0	0	0
Selenium 0.01 mg/L)	0	0	0	0

4.1 Chemical - Health Related - Exception Notification

Leinster Medical Centre RO Monthly Nitrate Analysis	
Sample Date	Nitrate Value (mg/L)
28/12/2023	10
28/11/2023	9.7
17/11/2023	10
29/09/2023	4.2
07/09/2023*	6.6
07/07/2023	5.2
1/06/2023	1.2
27/04/2023	1.4
16/03/2023	1.8
21/02/2023	1.9
12/01/2023	1.8
15/12/2022	1.6
18/11/2022	1.4
11/10/2022	1.1
06/10/2022	4.7
16/08/2022	4.5

Note: Due to incorrect lab analysis, October Nitrate value was not reported as requested.

5.0 Chemical - Aesthetic Performance

5.1 Chemical - Aesthetic Performance

Table 8: Leinster Distribution Water Chemical Aesthetic Performance				
	Analyses Completed	ADWG Compliant	Variance	Maximum recorded value
Aluminium (0.2 mg/L)	2	2	0	<0.01
Ammonia (0.5 mg/L)	0	0	0	0
Chloride (250/L)	0	0	0	0
Colour (15 HU)	2	2	0	<5.0
Hardness (200 mg/L)	2	0	2	280
Iron (0.3 mg/L)	2	2	0	0.017
Manganese (0.1 mg/L)	2	2	0	<0.001
pH (6.5 - 8.5)	43	43	0	8.2
Sodium (180 mg/L)	2	2	0	0
Sulfate (250 mg/L)	0	0	0	0
TDS (600 mg/L)	39	7	32	740
Turbidity (5 NTU)	43	42	1	19

5.2 Chemical - Aesthetic Related – Incident Specific Information

Australian Drinking Water Guidelines state based on taste total dissolved solids should ideally be less than 600 mg/L to be regarded good quality for drinking. The Australian Drinking Water Guideline also state between 600 – 900mg/L is regarded as fair quality drinking water and acceptable.

Highest record value for TDS in this quarter was recorded at 740mg/L, within “fair quality water” as defined in ADWG.

6.0 Radiological Performance

Table 9: Leinster Radiological Performance				
	Analyses Completed	ADWG Compliant	Variance	Maximum recorded value
Gross Alpha (0.5Bq/L)	1	1	0	0.098
Gross Beta (0.5Bq/L)	1	1	0	0.089

7.0 Planned Sample Summary

Table 10: Leinster Distribution Water Planned Sample Summary			
	Planned Analyses	Taken	% Compliance to Plan
Microbial	132	122	92
Chemical	384	250	65
Radiological	2	2	100

7.1 Planned Sample Exceptions

Week commencing November 13, Nitrate sampling analysis commenced weekly at all consumer and distribution points. Given this change, the above compliance to plan is lower than those planned analysis vs taken.

Due to modified personal requirements the underground consumer points were unable to be completed on multiple occasions. This issue has now been resolved and sampling has commenced weekly.

8.0 General Notes/Other News

A Water Services Licence was granted by the Economic Regulation Authority (ERA) for the town of Leinster in September 2020 (commenced 16/9/2020 and expires 15/9/2045).