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EPA to host a community information session

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is hosting a community session in Port Augusta next week to provide more information to local residents about the management of the former power stations site.

This follows a significant dust event in early January following heavy rain that disturbed and broke up the temporary dust suppressant surface on the site's ash dam which caused dust in the area, affecting the local community.

EPA Chief Executive Tony Circelli said since this dust event, the EPA had been providing additional information to the community.

This has included responding to more than 200 calls and emails, providing information updates through the EPA website, email and social media, and liaising with local residents by phone and personal visits.

"Given the concerns amongst the Port Augusta community, the EPA has taken steps to ensure we work more closely with the community to address them, Mr Circelli said.

"The EPA has also been working with other agencies such as SA Health which set up a hotline and local drop-in health clinic," he said.

"Through our contact with the local community, we know that many wanted an opportunity to ask specific questions and to meet face-to-face with the EPA, SA Health and Department for State Development staff."

The information session will be held on Monday, 6 February from 9am to 9pm at the Port Augusta Institute Theatre on Commercial Road, where local residents will be able to drop in to meet one-on-one with EPA staff.

"We will have staff who can answer questions about air quality monitoring, water quality, odour, and what laws and regulations apply for a site such as this," Mr Circelli said.

"We know that some questions may be broader than environmental issues regulated by the EPA, so we have arranged for other government agencies to be present to assist in answering those questions."

Information on the Flinders Power former Port Augusta power stations site including the most recent dust reports are available on the <u>EPA website</u>.

For health-related information and advice phone (08) 8226 7100 or refer to the <u>SA Health</u> website.

For further information please contact Chris Metevelis: 0439 137 641