



Information sheet

SA Water asbestos storage

The storage and handling of asbestos-containing materials by industry requires a licence from the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to ensure that the asbestos is managed safely and in a way that poses no risk to the environment or human health.

The EPA recently received applications from SA Water for the storage of non-friable asbestos at a number of SA Water sites across South Australia. The EPA is consulting with the community on the application to ensure that the community is aware of the proposal and has an opportunity to provide feedback. This feedback will be taken into account when determining conditions that may be placed on a licence.

SA Water's applications for storage of non-friable asbestos

The EPA has received five applications from SA Water for the storage of waste materials from its repair and maintenance activities at 31 of its sites across South Australia. The waste materials include pipes and other materials, which due to its age, may include non-friable asbestos.

SA Water is seeking approval to temporarily store such materials at a number of its sites, prior to disposal at a landfill licensed by the EPA to take asbestos waste. After being removed during maintenance activities, the non-friable material will be double-wrapped and labelled, then transported to the SA Water facility and stored in a dedicated large bin with a closed lid. This is an accepted and safe practice for handling and disposing of non-friable asbestos. The material does not pose a public health risk and is stored in compliance with work health and safety regulations.

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Development considerations

Prior to undertaking the public notification process, the EPA received confirmation that the storage of excavated and other waste materials was for a temporary period and of a relatively low scale, and no additional development authorisation was required.

The proposed works are incidental activities in relation to SA Water's primary work: being the maintenance and operation of the state's water supply and distribution system. It was also noted that the waste materials to be generated were directly related to SA Water's own operations. All materials would be stored within an existing works depot or compound, and then removed to an EPA-approved disposal site. No building or other work is proposed as part of these activities.

Public notification of EPA authorisations

When the EPA receives a licence application, the application is advertised in a local newspaper and a letter is sent to neighbouring properties informing them of the application and inviting comment. The process gives the community an opportunity to contact the EPA with any concerns they have about the application and to make a written submission which will be considered in determining any conditions which will be attached to a licence. Letters were sent on 25 and 26 October 2017, and the consultation period is now extended to 1 December 2017.

Submissions can be made via the following:

Mail: EPA Licensing, GPO Box 2607, ADELAIDE SA 5001

Email: EPALicensing@sa.gov.au

Website: www.epa.sa.gov.au/data_and_publications/applications

EPA assessment of applications

The process for assessing a licence application is set out in the *Environment Protection Act 1993*. In undertaking its assessment of the applications, the EPA is required to consider any submissions received. A copy of the submissions will be provided to the applicant (with personal details removed), who then has an opportunity to provide a response.

The EPA will consider any previous feedback from the community, prior environmental performance of the applicant, data or scientific information, technological considerations, as well as the legal requirement that any approval conditions must be linked to the legislative powers of the EPA under the Act.

When a licence is granted, a full copy of the licence is made available on the EPA website.