

Media Release

Environment Protection Authority



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Door knocking of residents at three sites

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has been advised by independent environmental consultants OTEK Australia Pty Ltd that it will be undertaking further assessment and remediation works on behalf of its client, Mobil, at three former service station sites around Adelaide.

The sites are at Gorge Road in Athelstone, Lower North East Road in Dernancourt and Tapleys Hill Road in Royal Park.

Each of the sites has had numerous environmental assessments and a groundwater monitoring event undertaken by OTEK in April/May this year. The results indicated that there is potential for groundwater contamination to have migrated off site.

According to EPA Director Science and Assessment Peter Dolan, residents in all three areas have been door knocked over the past few days to inform them of the potential groundwater impact.

“OTEK as the consultant has been quite conservative in defining the door knocking boundary in each of these areas to include not only residents adjacent to the sites but also in the surrounding area.

“The total number of properties approached in Dernancourt was 57, in Athelstone 93 and in Royal Park 24,” said Mr Dolan.

During the exercise residents were asked to provide information on any bores or underground structures (eg basements or cellars) on their property. Further testing by OTEK will be undertaken following the review of this information.

The Dernancourt site is currently a BP on the Run service station, whilst the other two sites are no longer used as service stations. Remediation processes have been undertaken at some of the sites, however groundwater impacts remain. Total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) were found on-site at all three locations.

“Once again we are dealing with historic contamination issues which come as no surprise. The important point is that we are the first generation to be cleaning up these issues, explained Mr Dolan.

“Mobil is responsible for on-site and off-site contamination and is working with the EPA to ensure that the sites meet all environmental requirements and that residents are kept informed.

“This also confirms previous advice from the EPA and SA Health that if people should test their bore regularly to ensure it is fit for purpose,” said Mr Dolan.

Information on these sites is available on the EPA website under the Public Register.

For further information on the use of groundwater and contamination related enquiries, please contact the EPA on 1800 729 175 during weekdays from 8 am to 5 pm.

For further information please contact Ros Agate: 0434 609 394