

Media Release

Environment Protection Authority



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Tuesday 28 May 2013

Shell Murray Bridge – groundwater contamination

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has been advised by Shell Australia (Shell) and its environmental consultant URS Australia (URS) that it will be undertaking further assessment of groundwater contamination, within the vicinity of the Coles Express Service Station, located on the corner of Adelaide Road and Charles Street, Murray Bridge.

The site is an operational service station owned by Shell. On Monday 27 May, Shell and URS door knocked four residential properties and two businesses in the immediate vicinity of the site to inform them of the environmental investigations being conducted in the area.

The EPA was originally notified on 15 October 2012 regarding groundwater contamination at the site. The EPA was subsequently notified on 16 May 2013 of results from additional groundwater sampling conducted by URS, indicating groundwater containing petroleum hydrocarbons was identified on the northern boundary of the site.

EPA Director of Science and Assessment Peter Dolan said that the door knocking exercise provided residents with information on the known issues and the steps required for further assessment works to be carried out.

“Preliminary soil and groundwater investigation on-site between August and September 2012 identified hydrocarbons in the groundwater beneath the site.

“Following this, Shell engaged URS to further delineate the nature and extent of the groundwater impact.

“Currently there is insufficient information to define the extent of the impacted groundwater, and given the location of the site, further investigation off-site has been recommended by URS.

“The EPA will continue to ensure that all on and off-site assessment work is undertaken by Shell’s environmental consultant and is overseen by an independent Site Contamination auditor.

“Shell is undertaking all necessary steps to deal with this situation and will keep residents well informed.

“Residents were advised on Monday not to use their bore water. This is also another opportunity to remind bore owners in general that they should regularly test their bore water to ensure it is fit for purpose,” said Mr Dolan.

Information on the notification 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 between the hours of 8 am to 8 pm.

For further information please contact Ros Agate: 0434 609 394

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