



▶ **FLINDERS POWER ASH DAM** Community Update #2

Issued Sunday 8 January 2017

This is the second in a series of community updates in response to the significant rainfall and wind events that has caused dust from the Flinders Power ash dam. Since the issuing of our first community update on Friday 6 January 2017, Flinders Power are to undertake further works to manage the short-term dust impacts and continue reapplication of dust suppressants by:

- aerial application
- water cart spraying inner banks and adjacent surface
- hand spraying on outer banks
- commencement of laying top soil on the ash storage area in the form of “access fingers” across the surface, which is not to cover the surface with soil at this stage but is the preparation work required
- laying of the soil as a growing medium when the approval process is completed
- appropriate mitigation measures to manage dust that may be generated during the topsoil application; and
- work on the “Top Soil Burrow Pit” to continue.

EPA staff in the community

Staff from the EPA worked through the night on Saturday night to set up HIVOL air sampling devices at their temporary accommodation. We will be holding further discussions with Flinders Power tomorrow about air monitoring at their premises.

Today we were very grateful for the welcome and support of residents adjacent to the ash dam, who have allowed us to set up a mobile unit on their property. At this stage, the current plan is to collect samples every 24 hours. Monitoring will occur from their premises and the EPA would like to thank the Port Augusta community in general for your understanding, patience and support.

EPA staff will be in Port Augusta all week and have commenced scheduling meetings with residents. Please contact us on the details overleaf to arrange a meeting.



Keeping you informed

Subject to interest from the community, the EPA is planning on hosting information sessions for residents interested in learning more about the immediate and longer term management plans for this site. Please register your interest by contacting us on the numbers below. Since Friday night, the EPA has:

- distributed community service announcements on local radio stations advising people to stay indoors wherever possible and avoid dust
- had community engagement staff and the Emergency Response Team responding to phone calls and emails - providing a 24 hour service over the weekend; and
- liaised with the Port Augusta Council to advise the Aboriginal Community. Council arranged the distribution of the EPA's community safety messages via Council's networks, Aboriginal Liaison Officer, texts, Community Safety Patrol Officers, and commonwealth government officers.

Yesterday the EPA established a mobile office adjacent to the ash dam, and staff are available during the coming week to meet with residents in person. To make arrangements please contact us on the details below.

In the meantime, we urge you to please follow the SA Health advice to avoid exposure to dust as much as physically possible.



Aerial application of dust suppressant

Longer term rehabilitation

Covering and revegetating is the most effective path to deliver dust management, surface water and groundwater management, and improved amenity to the entire area. The long term management plan for the ash pit is revegetating with seeds sourced locally and using soil from the local Burrow Pits nearby that has already sustained vegetation.

There is already vegetation that has grown in and around the ash dam that is evidence of the ability for the plan to be successful in the longer term. These measures do not preclude future reuse if a process and market is established.

Testing for asbestos

The EPA is analysing existing dust samples following claims that ash may contain asbestos. EPA investigators are also being sent to the Port Augusta to assess claims.

Flinders Power advised that no asbestos would be contained in the dust from the dam, however the EPA treats all asbestos reports very seriously and acted immediately on the advice received. These results are being expedited and will be published on our website as soon as they are available.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information please contact:

Telephone:
(08) 8204 2004

Email:
portaugustadust@epa.sa.gov.au

Website: www.epa.sa.gov.au

(Click hyperlink if viewing this publication online) or follow the link at the bottom left hand corner to Port Augusta Power Station Site.

To request any of this information in the post, please do not hesitate to call us on the above number.

For health related information please contact:

Telephone:
(08) 8226 7100

Website: www.sahealth.sa.gov.au

(Click hyperlink if viewing this publication online, or type into the search window 'dust Port Augusta'.)

SA Health also has a fact sheet on dust and advises to stay indoors, use air conditioners wherever possible, and seek medical advice if you are experiencing any problems.

