
30 June 2023

Nyrstar's licence being renewed for 5 years

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) will renew the operating licence for Nyrstar's Port Pirie smelter for 5 years until June 2028.

The 5-year extension to Nyrstar's licence comes after extensive review and assessment by the EPA to further strengthen the licence conditions.

EPA's Director of Operations Andrew Pruszinski said the longer-term licence will enable improved environmental outcomes allowing Nyrstar to demonstrate its long-term commitment and investment in lead emission reduction, with the 5-year licence giving Nyrstar the certainty it requires for its operations, while also setting clear expectations for its longer-term lead-in-air (LiA) performance.

"The new licence will continue to require Nyrstar to invest in actions which drive Nyrstar's performance towards the long-term achievement of the 12-month average lead-in-air goal of 0.25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$," he said.

"This investment will also help to drive these key environmental improvements through the development of a new Environment Improvement Program (EIP) with a key focus on actions and timeframes to reduce dust and lead emissions.

"As well as this Nyrstar is required to develop and implement plans to improve wastewater emissions and to reduce and where possible eliminate open stock-piling of lead-bearing materials."

The new licence further reduces the annual average LiA limits that were introduced in the 2022 licence by 15% over the next 5 years.

EPA staff regularly inspect Nyrstar's operations to ensure it is compliant with licence conditions and achieving outcomes for an improved environment for the Port Pirie community.

EPA staff also interact with Nyrstar in other ways for assessments, communication about performance and investigation of any incidents. The company's new licensing conditions will apply from 1 July 2023.

A copy of the new licence will be available on the EPA website, along with a recently issued community update.

For more information visit: www.epa.sa.gov.au/community/stay-informed/nyrstar-port-pirie