

Media Release

Environment Protection Authority



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Door knocking of residents at Para Hills

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has been advised by independent environmental consultants OTEK Australia Pty Ltd that it will be undertaking further assessment of groundwater contamination, on behalf of its client, Peregrine Corporation, within the vicinity of the On the Run Service Station at 321 Bridge Road, Para Hills.

OTEK has been retained by Peregrine Corporation to undertake the environmental assessment work. The site is an operational service station owned by Peregrine which was previously owned and operated by Mobil. Peregrine is not the polluter at the Para Hills site, having only purchased the site on 4 October 2010.

OTEK yesterday door knocked approximately 30 individual properties in the surrounding Para Hills area.

EPA Director of Science and Assessment Peter Dolan said that the door knocking exercise is intended to collect information about the existence of groundwater bores, basements and cellars in the area.

“OTEK has asked residents to complete a private bore and underground structure usage survey to advise if either a bore or basement exist on their property.

“Data obtained from the survey will be provided to the EPA in a summary of findings and will be the basis on which future off-site delineation works are undertaken. The information will additionally be utilised within the detailed risk assessment for the site,” said Mr Dolan.

In 2010 an environmental site assessment prepared on behalf of Mobil identified on-site contamination of groundwater.

In 2011 Peregrine was asked to engage a consultant to prepare a detailed risk assessment to delineate the nature and extent of the contaminated groundwater plume.

As a result of these further investigations an updated S83A notification was submitted to the EPA on 17 February 2012.

This notification indicated that total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) had spread off-site to the west/northwest, and high concentrations of TPH and BTEX were detected at site boundaries.

“Whilst continued investigations on and off-site are being undertaken by the consultants, the EPA’s role is to ensure all work is undertaken in accordance with the Environment Protection Act 1993, Mr Dolan explained.

“Although Peregrine is not the polluter at the site, it has been working with the EPA to ensure that the site meets all environmental requirements. In addition, Peregrine expects in the near future to upgrade the fuel infrastructure at the site.

For further information please contact Ros Agate: 0434 609 394

“They are also committed to ensuring residents are kept informed in accordance with EPA communication protocols.

“This also confirms previous advice from the EPA and SA Health that if people do have a bore it should be tested regularly 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.