

Media Release

Environment Protection Authority



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Wednesday 12 September 2012

EPA receives GMH test results

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has been advised by General Motors Holden Ltd (GMH) that the results from the recent crawl space testing of residential properties north of the Elizabeth South site, were reported to be below health screening levels.

GMH's site contamination consultant undertook crawl space testing of the publicly owned residential properties in August. The results for trichloroethylene (TCE) were reported to be below laboratory reporting limits. Concentrations of TCE and tetrachloroethylene (PCE) were both reported below the health screening criteria. The results were reviewed by GMH's consultant and provided to the independent site contamination auditor.

The auditor has concluded that the concentrations of TCE and PCE reported for all properties are below the site specific health screening levels approved by the independent site contamination auditor.

GMH yesterday letter dropped 95 residents living within the testing area. The letter advised the residents of the results and the outcome of the testing in the area.

Individual residents, whose properties were tested, received a separate letter advising them of the outcome of the auditor's review and included a copy of the results for their property.

According to EPA Director of Science and Assessment Peter Dolan, GMH is cooperating fully with the EPA and undertaking all necessary steps to deal with the situation.

"GMH has continued to engage a site contamination consultant to undertake all environmental assessment works at on and off-site areas. This work is being reviewed by an independent EPA accredited site contamination auditor.

"Results from the recent crawl space testing completed in August, were received in the last few days and have now been communicated with residents," said Mr Dolan.

The EPA will continue to ensure that all on and off-site assessment work undertaken by the consultant and overseen by the independent auditor is in accordance with the Environment Protection Act 1993.

GMH will be hosting a community information evening on 13 September at the Elizabeth plant between 5 and 8 pm offering residents the opportunity to discuss the outcomes of the latest round of testing.

The EPA is attending the community information evening and will be able to answer any questions from residents.

The EPA has published information as "Frequently Asked Questions" that are available on the EPA website (www.epa.sa.gov.au via the What's New list on the home page).

For further information please contact Ros Agate: 0434 609 394

For further information on the use of groundwater and any contamination related enquiries in relation to this matter, please contact the EPA on 1800 729 175 during weekdays between the hours of 8 am to 8 pm.

Contact: Ros Agate 0434 609 394

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