

Media Release

Environment Protection Authority



GPO Box 2607 Adelaide SA 5001
250 Victoria Square Adelaide SA
T (08) 8204 2000 F (08) 8204 2020
Country areas 1800 623 445

Landfill gas measurements in Seacliff area

Thursday 18 February 2010

The Environment Protection Authority is coordinating a program to measure for landfill gas in the Seacliff Park area after the Authority received information about the presence of landfill gas.

Tests conducted early this morning at the Seacliff Primary School cleared the school of any risk from gas.

EPA Chief Executive Helen Fulcher said while the likelihood of any incident occurring is very low, levels of gas have been found underground in a former landfill close to residences and the EPA has advised a precautionary approach to rule out any risk to public safety.

Residents of 138 homes in Seacliff, Kingston Park and Marino are being visited and offered the opportunity to have their home tested for signs of landfill gas. About a third of homes were tested this morning and no evidence of gas has been found.

“These tests were conducted as a precautionary measure, and we are very pleased that the results so far have confirmed no evidence of landfill gas in homes,” Ms Fulcher said.

Landfill gas can migrate through soils and has the potential to accumulate in confined spaces such as service trenches, basements and isolated rooms. In extreme cases, it can pose a risk of explosion if ignited.

The landfill gas relates to a former landfill site which operated between approximately the 1950s and 1970s.

“Gas is not a risk in open and well ventilated areas, but we need to ensure that there is no immediate risk to anyone living or working in the area.”

Today’s tests are being conducted jointly by the EPA, Metropolitan Fire Service Officers, and officers from Holdfast Bay and Marion Councils.

Residents will be advised of the results of tests immediately. The EPA has established a hotline 1800 729 175 for enquiries, and further information on landfill gas can be found on the EPA website at www.epa.sa.gov.au.

Once immediate testing has been undertaken, the EPA will work with Council to determine what further actions will be required.

The area being sampled is approximately one square kilometre bordered by Pine Avenue, Brighton Road, Sherlock Road, and extending south along Angas Crescent and Keith Crescent to North Street.