

Media release

Environment Protection Authority



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EPO issued to reduce Port Augusta dust events

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has issued an Environment Protection Order (EPO) to Flinders Power who is the responsible owner of the former Port Augusta power station.

Following recent heavy rains and winds which reduced a dust suppressant previously applied to the site's ash dam, there has been strong community concern about the health implications of dust in and around Port Augusta.

While Flinders Power has begun respraying dust suppressant onto the ash dam, the EPA has issued the company with an EPO to ensure their environmental responsibilities to the community were being met.

An EPO is a formal statutory order issued under the [Environment Protection Act 1993](#) that requires Flinders Power to take actions to prevent further environmental harm.

Under the Act, it is an offence for Flinders Power to fail to comply with the requirements of the EPO.

This includes:

- Re-applying dust suppressant to achieve full coverage of the ash dam in accordance with the Flinders Power Dust Management Plan dated November 2016.
- To undertake a Root Cause Analysis (RCA) of all contributing factors that caused the recent dust event and to provide the EPA with a satisfactory report.

Senior officers from the EPA have also met with Flinders Power and inspected the site.

During that inspection, EPA officers ensured that all possible measures were being taken to minimise dust.

EPA Chief Executive Tony Circelli has verified that independent lab testing of dust samples taken from the site in October 2016 and January 2017, has not detected asbestos.

"I can confirm that EPA testing and independent laboratory testing have ruled out any traces of asbestos in the dust samples from the ash dam." Mr Circelli said.

Mr Circelli also highlighted that the EPA's Environment Protection Order is a formal notice of the actions required by Flinders Power to address the dust issues immediately and for the long term.

"We expect Flinders Power to address the concerns raised about the dust impacts for the community and meet the compliance date deadlines outlined in the EPO," Mr Circelli said.

The EPO is available on the EPA website or by contacting 8204 2004 or 1800 623 445 (non-metropolitan callers) during business hours, or by [email](#).

Information on the Flinders Power former Port Augusta power stations site including the most recent dust reports are available on the [EPA website](#).

For health-related information and advice phone (08) 8226 7100 or refer to the [SA Health website](#).

For further information please contact Chris Metevelis: 0439 137 641