

EPA 05/19639; 60624

Dear Resident

RE: Environmental assessment update – Hendon and surrounding suburbs

I am writing to advise you of the outcomes of recent environmental testing undertaken to the south and west of the Hendon industrial area as part of ongoing investigations into historic site contamination. Works in this area are currently being managed by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) as part of its role as South Australia's environmental regulator.

As you may recall from my previous correspondence, assessment work to the north of the industrial area is now being managed by a third party which previously conducted activities that may have caused contamination in the area. The EPA is overseeing all elements of this work, including communication with residents and property owners. An EPA accredited site contamination auditor has been engaged by the third party to independently and objectively examine and review the accuracy and completeness of the assessment and to complete a site contamination audit report.

Assessment program outcomes

The works conducted by the EPA and others over the past year have concluded that:

- A number of industrial chemicals are present in groundwater and soil vapour within the Hendon assessment area, including trichloroethene (TCE) and tetrachloroethene (PCE). Soil vapour is the gas that forms when chemicals in the soil and groundwater evaporate, and has the potential to migrate into homes.
- There is no health risk to occupants of residential properties that do not have a basement.
- Further work is required to better understand how soil vapour may affect homes with basements or cellars, as below ground structures are closer to potential sources of TCE (such as groundwater).

Next stage of assessment works

The EPA is currently planning the next stage of assessment works to the south and west of the industrial area. This program will involve the collection of more site specific information including building construction type, soil geology and hydrogeology (the distribution and movement of groundwater) as well as the re-sampling of all existing groundwater wells and soil vapour bores. Surveys of properties with cellars or basements will continue in specific areas to understand how these spaces are used by residents and property owners. This will help determine whether there is any potential vapour intrusion risk or health risk associated with these structures.

The next stage of assessment works to the north of the industrial area will be undertaken by a third party, with the EPA to continue to oversee the assessment program in its role as environmental regulator.

The EPA will notify all residents and property owners of upcoming assessment works in the vicinity of their properties prior to any works commencing, including details on the reporting timeframes.

Further information

As per previous advice provided by the EPA, residents and commercial/industrial property owners should not use bore water (groundwater) for any purpose until further notice. Mains water provided by SA Water and water from rainwater tanks are not affected by this issue.

If you have any further questions please contact the Stakeholder Engagement team on 1800 729 175 or via email at EPASiteContam@epa.sa.gov.au. Copies of all reports and correspondence are currently available online at www.epa.sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Tim Saul', written in a cursive style.

TIM SAUL
MANAGER STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

Date: 31 July 2015