

Media Release

Environment Protection Authority

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Dust samples analysed from defunct power station

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is continuing to work closely with Flinders Power to minimise dust at the site of a former power station in Port Augusta.

The 62-year-old coal-fired power station was closed in May but the site is still regulated by the EPA. This includes monitoring the company's closure plan which addresses:

- the decommissioning and decontamination of coal burning equipment;
- the removal of coal from the coal stockpile and coal handling areas;
- ash dam rehabilitation;
- assessment and removal of chemicals and hazardous materials;
- and the removal of waste including appropriate disposal of asbestos.

The EPA has also entered into a Voluntary Site Contamination Assessment Proposal with Flinders Power to address site contamination investigation and assessment.

EPA Acting Executive Director Operations, Stephen Barry, said all practicable measures are being taken to prevent and minimise dust emissions including from the ash dam area.

“In August, in response to community concern about dust emissions from the power station's ash dam, the EPA installed air quality monitoring equipment in the vicinity to collect dust samples and ascertain its composition,” he said.

Dust samples were sent for analysis to the accredited laboratories of the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA).

The EPA has provided SA Health dust sample results, who have advised that the airborne dust contained minimal toxic metals and substances, however reminded the EPA that dust particles themselves may cause health effects, irrespective of their elemental make-up.

Flinders Power recently completed aerial spraying of a dust suppressant across the whole ash dam surface.

The aerial spraying occurred last month and observations by the EPA confirmed its current effectiveness in dust management.

“This is an interim measure until long-term rehabilitation of this site is completed,” Mr Barry said.

“The EPA remains committed to working closely with Flinders Power to minimise dust events,” he said.

“This includes regular inspections at the site and ensuring compliance with an EPA approved Dust Management Plan.”

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