



FLINDERS POWER ASH DAM Community Update #3

Issued Friday 13 January 2017

This is the third in a series of regular updates on the management and control of the dust from the ash dam located on Port Augusta Power Stations Site (Flinders Power).

EPA issues Environment Protection Order to Flinders Power

On Monday 9 January 2017, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) served an Environment Protection Order to Flinders Power, who is the responsible owner of the former Port Augusta power station. While Flinders Power has begun respraying dust suppressant onto the ash dam, the EPA has issued the company with the Order 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 Order. 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' of all contributing factors that caused the recent dust event and to provide the EPA with a satisfactory report.
- Provide to the EPA a revised version of the Ash Dam Rehabilitation Plan.



Flinders Power Update

Two of the access fingers - to allow distribution of the top soil for the long term rehabilitation of the area - are currently under construction on the eastern side of the Ash Storage Area (see photo left).

This photograph also shows the dust suppressant sprayed on the area of highest risk of dust lift off.

Flinders Power have been issuing daily updates on their website:

www.flinderspower.com.au and follow the links to 'News & Media':

- [9 January 2017](#)
- [7 January 2017](#)
- [6 January 2017](#)

Prosecution under the *Environment Protection Act 1993*

The EPA is looking at the particular event to identify whether Flinders Power took all reasonable and practical measures under the law to contain the dust from its ash dam. We have asked them to provide us with some of their on-site information in terms of dust events and how they responded to the information as they were receiving it.

There are serious penalties for non-compliance under the Environment Protection Act for both breaches of our Act and breaches of their license. The Environment Protection Order issued on Flinders Power makes the EPA's expectations clear through a legal instrument in terms of what we require and the timing of that requirement.

The EPA is unable to take enforcement action in circumstances of natural weather events, but wants to be absolutely sure that the response to that event has been to the fullest extent possible and that all measures were taken to mitigate the dust and test whether the procedures are in place in terms of doing everything possible to prevent it from happening again.

Independent Asbestos testing results

The EPA has now received the results of the dust samples which were analysed following claims that ash may contain asbestos. No asbestos was detected. These results are now available on the EPA website.

SA Health Update

Residents who are experiencing non-emergency symptoms relating to dust should contact their local GP. Several clinics in Port Augusta bulk bill, but if there is a gap the State Government will reimburse patients for any out of pocket expenses.

As of Tuesday 10 January, if you are unable to attend a GP and have symptoms relating to dust exposure, you can attend a clinic at Port Augusta Hospital between 10am and 2pm and be examined by clinicians. As usual, **anyone requiring urgent medical attention is encouraged to ring 000 or present to the emergency department of their local hospital.**

Community information 'drop in' session 6 Feb

Staff have been working around the clock to provide information, answer questions, and respond to request for information and follow up actions. To date we have kept the community informed by:

- radio announcements
- reports and data on our website updated daily
- tweeting regularly
- face-to-face meetings in Port Augusta
- doorknocking residents adjacent to the ash dam; and
- responding to emails, phone calls and text messages.

On Monday 6 February 2017, the EPA will host a 'drop in' session from 9am – 9pm:

**Monday 6 February
Port Augusta Institute
9am – 9pm 'drop-in' anytime that suits you, to meet with staff** from across the relevant agencies with key decision making responsibility for the site. There will be an informal atmosphere and all community members are welcome.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information please contact:

Telephone:
(08) 8204 2004

Email:
portaugustadust@epa.sa.gov.au

Website: www.epa.sa.gov.au

(Click hyperlink if viewing this publication online) or follow the link at the bottom left hand corner to Port Augusta Power Station Site.

To request any of this information in the post, please do not hesitate to call us on the above number.

For health related information please contact:

Telephone:
(08) 8226 7100

Website: www.sahealth.sa.gov.au

(Click hyperlink if viewing this publication online, or type into the search window 'dust Port Augusta'.)

