

Tuesday, 7 April 2020

EPA assessing request for change to landfill licence

The Environment Protection Authority is seeking community input as it assesses an application to allow the storage and disposal of PFAS-contaminated waste at a McLaren Vale landfill.

Southern Waste ResourceCo (SWR) has sought EPA approval to receive, store, treat and dispose of waste contaminated with per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) at its landfill on Tatachilla Rd at McLaren Vale.

The EPA is assessing SWR's proposal against the landfill acceptance criteria outlined in the [PFAS National Environment Protection Measure](#) and in accordance with the [EPA landfill disposal criteria for PFAS-contaminated waste](#).

The EPA is required to consider submissions from surrounding residents but it also wants to hear from interested community members so it can take any issues into account during the assessment process.

EPA Acting Director, Regulation, Andrew Pruszinski, said the EPA's role in regulating waste management activities was to ensure that all reasonable measures were taken to protect the environment and people's health and wellbeing.

"There are strict criteria around the disposal of PFAS-contaminated waste and landfill operators must have engineering controls in place to test, handle and dispose of it," he said.

"The EPA is considering SWR's application and has notified nearby residents, but we are keen to hear from the wider community and we've invited people to contact us if they wish to have any input."

PFAS are manufactured chemicals that have been used in a range of industrial and consumer products since the 1950s, including in the production of non-stick cookware, in stain protection for fabrics, furniture and carpet, in food packaging and some types of fire-fighting foams.

In 2018 South Australia was the first state to ban potentially hazardous fluorinated firefighting foams, reducing further environmental and human health risks associated with their use.

PFAS-contaminated waste is only permitted in specially engineered landfills with a single or double composite lining system. The cell under construction as part of the application has a double composite lining that consists of four layers of protective barriers.

Submissions can be made until 28 April. More information is at https://www.epa.sa.gov.au/business_and_industry/industry-updates