

Wednesday, 21 October 2020

## Environment Protection Order issued for SE gas plant

An Environment Protection Order (EPO) has been issued for Adelaide Energy's Katnook Gas Processing Facility in the state's south east.

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) issued the order after becoming aware of a leak in a stormwater lagoon at the plant just southwest of Penola.

EPA Director of Science and Information Keith Baldry said it's not known whether groundwater on the site has been affected however the EPA is taking a cautious approach and has issued the EPO to provide greater regulatory control over the company's remedial actions.

"There is no evidence that pollutants have left the Katnook site as a result of the potential leak," Mr Baldry said.

"The levels of pollutants are low, and there is no public health risk. However, integrity of lagoons is part of Adelaide Energy's environmental licence, and it's important that groundwater in the region is protected.

"Adelaide Energy has taken positive action to repair the potential leak, and is undertaking enhanced monitoring to check for any impacts to groundwater.

"The EPO requires Adelaide Energy to complete its repair plan by mid-November, and to undertake six months of enhanced groundwater monitoring."

An EPO is a routine tool used by the EPA to maintain regulatory oversight of operators. It is not a sanction for poor behaviour.

The Katnook Gas Plant was initially constructed by Origin Energy Resources Limited and commenced production in 1991. Production at the gas plant stopped in 2011, but was refurbished and recommissioned in early 2020 to supply gas to industry in the state's south east.