
Tuesday, 4 January 2021

Nyrstar data confirms licence breach

End-of-year data provided by Nyrstar's Port Pirie smelter confirms the company breached conditions of its operating licence, and this has triggered a formal investigation by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

EPA acting CEO Keith Baldry said the data shows that Nyrstar exceeded its annual average lead-in-air limit of $0.4 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ at Pirie West on 31 December 2020, reporting concentrations of $0.41 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

"The data also confirms that Nyrstar has exceeded its annual average targets at the Ellen Street and Boat Ramp locations, reporting concentrations of $2.31 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and $0.76 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ respectively," Mr Baldry said.

"However, during the course of checking Nyrstar's lead-in-air emissions data, the EPA discovered a reporting error, and has asked the company to re-submit data for its three-month average lead-in-air targets.

"At this stage the EPA expects the company will meet its three-month average targets at all four monitoring locations and this will be confirmed when new data is provided by Nyrstar and validated.

"The EPA still requires Nyrstar to provide a report by 8 January 2021 detailing the cause of any exceedances of its licence targets, and the actions it proposes to take to eliminate future occurrences.

"The EPA will determine what further enforcement actions may be appropriate once it has reviewed Nyrstar's report and the information received during the course of its own investigation."

The EPA applied significantly tighter licence conditions for Nyrstar at the licence renewal on 1 July 2020 – effectively requiring a 20 per cent reduction in emissions.

Lead-in-air emissions data is available via Nyrstar's website, and further information on the EPA's regulation of the Port Pirie site is available at: <https://www.epa.sa.gov.au/community/stay-informed/nyrstar-port-pirie>