

EPA 05/12114

Important Information – February 2007

Dear Resident

This letter provides an update on the status of Environment Protection Authority (EPA) investigation works, undertaken at the former Lightburn and Co Ltd (Lightburn) site in August 2006. Your property now occupies a portion of this original site.

Background

Lightburn operated at a site on Morphet Road, Novar Gardens from 1946 to 1986 and manufactured a variety of products. As a result of manufacturing activities 'prescribed waste' was produced for which Lightburn was issued a licence by the South Australian Waste Management Commission (the Waste Commission) under the now repealed *Waste Management Commission Act 1979* between 1981 and 1986. Records indicate that the 'prescribed wastes' comprised paint residues (nitrocellulose), the solvent perchlorethylene (PCE), and kerosene.

Following a review of the Waste Commission files held by the EPA, it was discovered that a portion of the area of land previously occupied by Lightburn was not flagged to the Land Title Office (LTO), under the requirements of the Regulations under the *Land and Business (Sale and Conveyancing) Act 1994 (LBSC Act)*, for notification that the land had previously been used for a licensed activity.

Based on this information, the EPA considered that further investigation of this matter was warranted, through site history and targeted soil sampling works.

Investigation Works Undertaken to Date

Initial investigations comprised a review of historical activities that had been undertaken on the site and discussions with former employees to determine where prescribed wastes generated at the site were disposed to.

A review of Waste Commission files and discussions with former employees indicated that paint sludges and solvents (prescribed wastes) were collected and disposed of by a waste contractor, and that waste kerosene was often taken home by company personnel for personal use.

In addition to the historical review, it was decided to undertake a soil sampling program targeting the listed prescribed wastes - nitrocellulose, PCE and kerosene, in order to provide an additional level of comfort to landowners and residents.

By overlaying the current sub-division plans over historical aerial photographs, drilling locations were selected based on areas where any potential disposal of the prescribed wastes could most likely have occurred (eg near the rear of former site buildings). A total of 13 soil bores were drilled on council land (footpaths and road verges) across the former Lightburn site.

Environment Protection Authority

One or more samples from each borehole were analysed for the prescribed wastes, with the depth of the selected sample corresponding with the likely site surface level when Lightburn operations occurred. Additional samples were also selected for analysis where field observations identified potential contamination.

Findings

Nitrocellulose (paint sludge residue) was not detected in any samples.

Kerosene was not detected in any samples. One sample, collected from the Council owned footpath on the eastern side of Henning Court, was found to contain a "degraded mineral lubricating oil" that was not listed as a prescribed waste at the site. The identification of this substance in this one sample only suggests that the oil is restricted to a localised area.

One sample corresponding with surface fill material situated in a flora bed at the end of a cul-de-sac on council land contained a small concentration of PCE. It has been concluded that this material may have been imported on-site during or after land redevelopment (ie after the closure of Lightburn operations), because of the shallow depth of the sample, its high volatility and its presence in council owned flora beds.

The site history review and soil sampling program undertaken to date have indicated that the chemicals identified did not arise as a result of the production of prescribed wastes during Lightburn's operations. The Department of Health has determined that the level of PCE detected in the one road verge sample was not considered to pose a toxicological concern to residents and with regards to mineral lubricating oil that the investigated area does not pose an unacceptable risk to residents.

Additional Testing

Based on investigation results to date and discussions with the Department of Health, the EPA will undertake the following additional soil investigation works to provide an additional level of certainty to the community:

1. Testing of cul-de-sac and road verge soils for PCE.
2. Testing for mineral lubricating oil in the vicinity of the previously identified area.

Once this soil investigation has been completed, the EPA will provide you with an update on the status of the investigation.

If you have any questions relating to information above, please do not hesitate to contact Rebecca Hughes or Carlo Castello of the EPA on 8204 2066 or 8204 1280 respectively. Alternatively, you may contact Jim Fitzgerald of the Department of Health on 8226 7100.

Yours sincerely

/ ~~Dr Paul~~ Vogel

CHIEF EXECUTIVE
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

Date: 6.2.07