

# Flinders Power Facts Site contamination



Flinders Power have been working on the demolition and rehabilitation of the Port Augusta Power Stations site in line with all regulatory and legislative requirements.

Since the commissioning of the Playford A and B power stations in 1954, the nature of the coal fired electricity generation and supporting activities undertaken on this site means some remediation and rehabilitation work is necessary.

Flinders Power has entered into voluntary site contamination assessment and remediation processes regulated by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

## What's site contamination?

Site contamination has a formal definition under the Environment Protection Act 1993 as:

- Chemical substances are present on or below the surface of the site in concentrations above the background concentrations, and
- The chemical substances are as a result of an activity at the site, and
- The presence of the chemical substances in those concentrations has resulted in –
  - actual or potential harm to the health or safety of humans, or
  - actual or potential harm to water, or
  - other actual or potential environmental harm that is not trivial,

...taking into account current or proposed land uses.

For site contamination to exist, all three of the following must exist:

- A source (eg contaminated groundwater)
- A pathway (eg extraction of bore water)
- A receptor (eg residents)

We are working through a 3 phase site contamination assessment process and have completed the first 2 phases:

1. Preliminary site investigation - Feb to May 2016
2. Detailed site investigation - May 16 to Feb 2017
3. Further assessment, validation and remediation - May 17

## Site contamination assessment process

to Aug 2018

The site contamination assessment is carried out in line with EPA guidelines and is undertaken by experienced professionals through a strict legislated process.

At the end of each phase an independent auditor reviews the work and upon confirmation of its adequacy, the auditor endorses the reports. These reports are provided to the EPA for placement on the public record. The auditor, ensures that the investigation and remediation process occurs thoroughly and in accordance with EPA legislation and guidelines.

## What do we know from this process?

To date, we know no environmental or social risks have been found that present an unacceptable risk. Here's what's been found so far:

### Phase 1 - preliminary site investigation

Identified 52 areas of environmental interest. This preliminary investigation used a combination of reviewing previous reports, site inspections and interviews with current and former employees, and identifying potential exposure pathways.

### Phase 2 - detailed site investigation

In this detailed phase of investigation over 2000 soil and water samples were analysed. Of the 52 areas of interest identified on the site in Phase 1:

- 4 require further assessment
- 9 require validation (further testing once infrastructure is removed)
- 4 will be actively remediated. These areas primarily relate to historical hydrocarbon contamination that is already known. These areas are localised and contained. The contaminated soils in these areas will be excavated and bioremediated onsite.
- 5 known or suspected waste dumps have been investigated



## What are the next steps in this process?

In Phase 3 we will be preparing a voluntary site remediation proposal, undertaking further assessment, validation and remediation.

This includes the preparation of a Site Management Plan to provide to any future owners of the site. All areas of known or suspected waste dumps will be detailed in this plan.

We will continue to work through the steps required in Phase 3 until approximately August 2018.

Flinders Power is committed to the remediation process to eliminate potential risks, to improve future site use potential and to improve the aesthetics of the site.

## Ash Storage Area

Extensive investigations of the Ash Storage Area have occurred. The ash is a stable, inert aluminosilicate waste generated through the mixing of bottom ash from the boilers with seawater and deposited as a slurry. Investigations of the groundwater wells surrounding the Ash Storage Area did not report chemical concentrations in excess of background level. Further investigations of the area will occur in Phase 3. There has been no discovery of asbestos or any other foreign contaminants in the Ash Storage Area.



## Where can I find out more?

You can call us on 0419 252 760 or email us at [enquiries@flinderspower.com.au](mailto:enquiries@flinderspower.com.au) with any questions about site contamination. Site contamination assessments, notifications and audit reports are publicly available on the EPA website at [epa.sa.gov.au/data\\_and\\_publications/site\\_contamination\\_index](http://epa.sa.gov.au/data_and_publications/site_contamination_index).