



12th March 2021

Dear Sunshine North Resident

RE: Air Quality Monitoring at AkzoNobel

As you may be aware, AkzoNobel has undertaken air quality monitoring at the AkzoNobel facility in Sunshine North in response to community reports of odour and in line with an Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Clean Up Notice.

As discussed at the recent community forum, AkzoNobel undertook air quality monitoring in accordance with an EPA approved monitoring plan with the purpose of assessing the risk of harm to sensitive receptors from volatile organic compounds (VOC).

The monitoring was undertaken by an accredited Australian National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) provider, Golder Associates Pty Ltd. This communication is to inform you of the results of the air monitoring. The complete report from Golder is being made available:

- To the Facebook action group,
 - By contacting AkzoNobel directly,
 - By contacting the independent community engagement facilitator, Jennifer Lilburn, on 0418 373 352
 - the AkzoNobel Community Page over the next week.
- The AkzoNobel site uses chemical solvents that are classified as volatile organic compounds. Solvents used at the site include toluene, ethylbenzene and a mixture of three types of xylenes, m-, o- and p-.
 - Toluene, ethylbenzene and xylenes are odorous and can be hazardous to human health. Due to their odour and toxicity, there are established state and national air quality criteria for these compounds. These criteria are expressed as concentrations in micrograms per cubic meter of air (i.e., $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$). Each criteria also have an averaging period over which the concentrations are measured (e.g., 1-hr, 24-hr).
 - Air quality monitoring at AkzoNobel occurred over a 30-day period from 5 February to 1 March, 2021 using a 1-in-6 day sampling schedule and in accordance with an EPA approved monitoring plan.
 - During each 24-hr monitoring period eight sampling devices were deployed along the AkzoNobel fenceline. One sample was collected near the midpoint of the east and west fences, and three samples were collected along each of the north and south fences.

- A total of thirty-eight samples were collected over the 30 day period.
- After their 24-hr monitoring period, the sampling devices were returned to Golder's laboratory in Melbourne for analysis of toluene, ethylbenzene and total xylenes. Golder's employees and the methods used to analyse the samples are independently accredited by Australia's National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA).
- Of the thirty-eight 24-hr samples collected:
 - Concentrations of toluene in all 38 samples were below the concentration that could be detected by the Golder laboratory (i.e., the concentrations were below the laboratory's limit of detection).
 - Ten samples recorded detectable concentrations of either ethylbenzene and/or total xylenes (i.e., 10 of 38 samples above the detection limit). There was at least one detection of ethylbenzene and/or total xylenes during each of the five rounds of 24-hr monitoring.
- To assess potential risks to human health, the 24-hr average concentrations of toluene and total xylenes were compared to the criteria found in the *National Environmental Protection (Air Toxics) Measure* (NEPM). There is no NEPM criteria for ethylbenzene so no comparison to the observations is possible.
- The NEPM criteria for 24-hr average toluene concentrations is 3,766 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. All toluene measurements were below detection (i.e., $<100 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) and therefore less than 3% of the NEPM criteria.
- The NEPM criteria for 24-hr average xylenes concentrations is 1,085 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. The maximum 24-hr total xylenes concentration was 200 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ or 18% of the NEPM criteria (82% below the criteria).
- The NEPM criteria are derived from health-based criteria intended to be protective of human health.
- **Golder concludes that the results of the air quality monitoring indicate low potential risk to human health based on toluene and total xylene concentrations measured at the AkzoNobel property boundary.**

AkzoNobel will be arranging a further community forum on the 31st March to give you another opportunity to discuss the above and any other concerns.

Yours sincerely



Peter Black
Site Manager