

Fact Sheet

February 2021

Odor and our Sunshine North facility

We hope to address your concerns.

What can I smell?

Odor emissions can be a by-product of resin manufacture, an activity undertaken at the AkzoNobel Sunshine facility. In response to the EPA informing us of community concerns about odor, AkzoNobel undertook odor assessments in late 2019 and early 2020. This enabled us to pinpoint the odor source and establish that the cause of odor is plant equipment operating ineffectively.

AkzoNobel's plans to improve odor emissions

AkzoNobel has an EPA license that limits its emissions, including odor. We are working closely with the EPA to monitor Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) emissions and associated odor.

AkzoNobel wants to be a good neighbor and manage our emissions in line with licensing requirements. We also want to gain community confidence that our operations will not cause negative offsite impacts. For this reason, we are looking to resolve the issues with sustainable, long-term solutions rather than 'Band-Aid' measures. Currently VOCs are collected via an extraction system and sent to a Wet Chemical Scrubber. The scrubber's purpose is to remove or filter the VOCs before expelling them to the atmosphere. It is this scrubber that is not operating effectively.

We are currently waiting on the EPA approval for our plans to replace the current equipment with a "Regenerative Thermal Oxidiser" to help reduce odorous emissions and meet the surrounding community's expectations.

Regenerative Thermal Oxidiser

A Regenerative Thermal Oxidiser (RTO) is an air treatment system that is widely regarded as best practice in odor mitigation. It will more effectively and efficiently control odor from AkzoNobel's resin manufacturing activity. The RTO is a new technology that heats the VOCs and burns them at high temperatures. No chemicals are used in this process. The RTO will have much greater odor removal efficiency, ensuring a reduction in emissions of VOCs and odorous compounds. The existing wet chemical scrubber will be decommissioned once the new equipment is installed.

Monitoring

In addition to installing new equipment, AkzoNobel is also undertaking rigorous odor monitoring, according to a monitoring plan approved by the EPA. The first stage of monitoring began on 5 February 2021. The monitoring will provide the information to take necessary remedial steps to mitigate odor before the RTO is installed. This first round of air monitoring is designed to assess how much VOCs are being emitted from the site. New monitoring protocols will be established when the system is commissioned and will continue ongoing to ensure it is working as expected. All monitoring results will be shared with the local community in March in line with EPA reporting requirements. Pending EPA approval, the Regenerative Thermal Oxidiser will be installed by October 2021. Akzo Nobel will continue to monitor and address emissions, and work with the local community.

Can these odorous emissions impact human health?

The air monitoring will clarify the exact chemical makeup and concentrations being emitted and any possible health impacts. The results and potential impacts will be shared with the community when available (March 2021).

Why will it take so long to install the RTO?

The new equipment is highly specialised, designed and built for purpose using overseas components, and civil and construction works will be necessary to accommodate the new equipment. We also need to temporarily relocate the current equipment so that the construction can occur. Unfortunately, this all takes time, but AkzoNobel is working hard to make it happen as soon as possible.

Who can I talk to if I have questions or concerns?

Community members are invited to contact AkzoNobel's hotline on 03 93134555. To help us investigate odor reports, information such as time of odor, a general location relative to the site and wind direction is very helpful. The caller's contact details will be needed if a response is requested.

EPA Victoria's 24-hour hotline is 1300 372 842.

Individuals who are unwell are reminded to please contact a health professional.