



Thermopower Process Technology

Odour Investigation Report



Address: 1018 Fredenharry Street, Little Falls
Roodepoort



1. INTRODUCTION

Thermopower Process Technology has established and is maintaining a monitoring committee as required in terms of their Record of Decision.

One of the monitoring committee members, Mr. Sean Cullinan, sent an email to the facilitator of the Monitoring committee on 27 August in which he stated that they had experienced very high chemical odours in the last two nights as a result of Thermopower's activities. Mr. Cullinan referred to how it had been particularly strong over the last two days and that this sometimes led to a burning sensation in the eyes.

Thermopower requested Health Industrial Occupations cc to investigate where the chemical smell could be coming from as they had not experienced any problems on the dates mentioned by Mr. Cullinan.

2. THE ODOUR TRAIL

Staff of Health Industrial Occupations undertook an investigation on 3 September 2008 to determine where the chemical smell could be coming from. The investigation involved touring the area to determine the source of the odour.

When the investigators traveled down Keramiek Street towards the Sewage Works a chemical smell was detected. The investigators identified the smell as emanating from the bush on the right hand side of the road. In view of this the investigators moved into the undeveloped area (covered by trees and grass).

A fair amount of waste dumping was obvious and as the investigators went deeper into the bush the chemical smell became stronger. In view of this, the investigators went further into the bush to see if they could find any dumped chemicals that could be contributing to the chemical smells experienced by Mr. Cullinan.

The investigators found wetlands that had dead reeds and trees and the water in the wetland was a white colour. Further investigation revealed that the source of the effluent was drainage from the Norcross site. Down from the source, the effluent entered the wetlands and still further down a mud dam wall was found that had been constructed to prevent further movement of the effluent.

A large area was found to be covered with dumped broken tiles.

3. PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

The investigators found two wetland areas that were polluted. The pollution smelt of sulphur and solvents.



Point Source



Down Stream from Point Source



Effluent Dam



Effluent Dam



Effluent Dam



Effluent Dam out Flow



Effluent Dam Wall



Wetland



Dumped Tile Waste



Kaal River

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that these findings be sent to the Green Scorpions for further investigation as the wetlands have been damaged and obvious illegal dumping of waste is apparent. The Kaal River may become polluted as a result of the contaminated wetlands and furthermore Nestle Bottled abstracts groundwater in the area

Health Industrial Occupations will investigate other potential sources of chemical odours as odour complaints registered could emanate from a number of sources.

Signed:
Lorraine Hodge
3 September 2008