Notice

Environmental Protection Act 1994

Environmental Evaluation

Notice of decision on an environmental report for an environmental investigation

This notice is issued by the administering authority pursuant to section 326G(4) of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 to advise you that the administering authority has decided to accept an environmental report for an environmental investigation.

RTA Weipa Pty Ltd
123 Albert Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Reference: 101/0008737; STAT1304; CR84931

19 March 2020

Take notice: that under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (the Act), a notice of decision to accept an environmental report for an environmental investigation is issued to RTA Weipa Pty Ltd by the administering authority. The administering authority is the Chief Executive of Department of Environment and Science (the department).

The notice of decision to accept an environmental report for an environmental investigation is issued in respect to the activities by RTA Weipa Pty Ltd on land described as ML7024, ML6024, Lot 17 on Plan SP116853, Lot 15 on Plan SP116851 and Lot 14 on Plan SP120446 situated at Weipa Township (the premises)

The decision

The decision to accept an environmental report about a stated matter is based on the following grounds:

1. On 7 September 2018, the department issued a statuary notice (STAT1304) requiring RTA Weipa Pty Ltd to conduct or commission an environmental evaluation pursuant to section 326B of the Act.
2. On 30 April 2019, RTA Weipa Pty Ltd submitted the final environmental report required under STAT1304.
3. On 15 May 2019, the department issued a Notice requesting further information from RTA Weipa Pty Ltd to satisfy compliance with STAT1304 pursuant to section 326G(7) of the Act.
4. On 2 August 2019, RTA Weipa Pty Ltd provided further information in response to the information request.
5. Post 2 August 2019, there were various engagement between RTA Weipa Pty Ltd and the department, seeking clarification on various aspects, and the provision of additional information.
6. The department has reviewed all the information provided by RTA Weipa Pty Ltd to date and on 13 of March 2020, made the decision to accept the environmental report.

Queensland Government

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Reasons

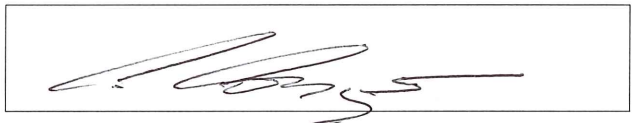
The facts and circumstances forming the basis of these grounds and the reason for the decision are:

1. RTA Weipa Pty Ltd operates a bauxite mine located in and around the township of Weipa and holds Environmental Authorities BRMN0032, EPML00725113, EPPR03383115, and EPPR03433515. In addition, RTA Weipa Pty Ltd is responsible for the administration of the town of Weipa through the Weipa Town Authority, which includes the management and supply of drinking water for the township.
2. The department issued STAT1304 to RTA Weipa Pty Ltd to investigate the source/s, cause and extent of Poly-fluoroalkyl and Per-fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) contamination in and around the township of Weipa in response to identified detections of PFAS in the receiving environment.
3. Findings of the environmental report presented by RTA Weipa Pty Ltd indicate that sources of PFAS at the premises originates from historical use of notable quantities of aqueous film forming foam (AFFF).
4. The environmental report investigated the extent of PFAS contamination in soils, surface water, sediment and groundwater at a number of locations at the premises and completed associated risk assessments.
5. As a result of the environmental report, PFAS contamination has not been found to have an identified adverse impact on environmental values, based on management arrangements in place and the current level of knowledge and sampling.
6. The environmental report suggests a need for *"ongoing biannual monitoring of groundwater, surface water and sediments to allow latest PFAS concentrations to be assessed, to inform changes in trends and inform current risk to potential receptors".*
7. Assessment from the department supports this approach, along with the need to have appropriate risk management protocols in place to ensure identified risks are managed into the future.
8. In this regard, the department is considering an amendment to environmental authority EPML00725113 under the Act to reflect the need to develop and implement a PFAS Monitoring and Management Plan.

A person whose interests are or would be adversely affected by a decision of the department may also be able to request a statement of reasons for a decision or a statutory order review under the *Judicial Review Act 1991*.

You may have other legal rights or obligations and should seek your own legal advice.

Should you have any queries in relation to this notice, please contact Millie Grant of the department on telephone number (07) 4222 5301.



Signature

19/3/2020

Date

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Delegate of the Chief Executive

Department of Environment and Science

Environmental Protection Act 1994

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