

Community Consultative Committee – Out of Session Update

27 April 2020

BlueScope would like to provide an update on the Sinter Plant by-pass project, following the detail presented at the most recent CCC meeting on the 20 February 2020.

Progress:

The bypassing of the Sinter Plant Waste Gas Cleaning Plant commenced on 18 February 2020. Activities scheduled for the bypass included repair and preventative maintenance on the ductwork of the Waste Gas Cleaning Plant Stack. On closer inspection, following the cleaning of inside of the duct and stack, there were significant areas that were identified as needing replacement rather than maintenance or repair. This has extended the scope of the work required.

Stack Testing Results:

The stack emission sampling has progressed to plan. Results that are available to date can be accessed via the [BlueScope in the Illawarra website](#).

During the period 18 February to now, BlueScope has conducted continuous air monitoring for particulate matter, and weekly samples for PCDD/F (dioxins/furans), heavy metals, combustion gases, hydrogen chloride, hydrogen fluoride and sulphur trioxide with all but one dioxin/furan result, being within the strict EPA set licence limits.

The outlier, sampled on the 26 March 2020, recorded a result of 0.43ng/m³ for dioxins/furans, exceeding the licence limit of 0.3ng/m³.

In response to this one-off exceedance, BlueScope will be carrying out the following actions:

- Investigate the cause of the elevated dioxin result – this includes reviewing the process inputs, the sinter machine conditions and operation.
- Increase sampling for dioxins from once/week, to 5 times/week for the duration of the bypass.
- Conduct air emission modelling of the high result to determine the estimated ground level concentration of this high result.
- Engage an external consultant to undertake a review of the Health Risk of this result.
- Respond to the incident report requested by the EPA.

Next Steps:

The Waste Gas Cleaning Plant is still scheduled to be back in service by 12 May 2020 as approved by the EPA, however, due to the unforeseen repair and maintenance that needs to be completed, some of the work will need to be carried out in the next bypass or Sinter Plant shutdown.

BlueScope is communicating closely with the EPA on the actions needed to be taken regarding the elevated dioxin result.



Photo: Work underway inside the WGCP duct