

Q & A'S COMMUNITY

What sort of waste will be disposed of in the Cell?

The Cell will dispose of a range of waste streams currently covered by the site's landfill licence and EPA approvals, with the site operating as a leading waste, recycling centre and soil treatment facility since 1993. It will not be a dedicated PFAS waste disposal facility. In fact, it is expected that less than 5% of the total incoming waste will contain low-level PFAS contamination (up to the EPA directed levels) within soils or other waste residues.

How will the waste be disposed of?

The PFAS waste will be disposed within the purpose-built containment cell consisting of a double composite lined cell incorporating primary and secondary leachate collection and extraction layers.

Comprehensive capping and rehabilitation works will occur shortly after closure of the containment cell, which will include installation of an engineered barrier layer, soil protection layer and a vegetative layer or an EPA approved alternative layer of equivalent environmental and engineering performance.

The cell design has been based upon the most recognised scientific and engineering knowledge available, which is adopted Internationally for similar waste disposal cells.

The cell design also considers, and has achieved, all construction requirements as outlined in the SA EPA guideline '*Environmental management of landfill facilities – Solid Waste Disposal*', updated April 2019.

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How will the environment and groundwater be protected from contamination by disposed waste?

The Cell has a double composite liner which consists of numerous barrier layers to provide environmental safeguards for the protection of groundwater resources onsite.

The Cell's barrier layers are designed to capture and contain any liquids (termed *leachate*) generated from the waste. The design and construction of the containment cell ensures all waste, including that containing PFAS, can be received and disposed of in a safe and sustainable manner.

The site also has an integrated leachate collection, management and monitoring system in place including specific leachate management measures for PFAS contaminated waste at the point of receipt, handling and storage within the undercover treatment facility or when received in the cell for final disposal.

It is anticipated that EPA oversight will include the imposition of specific site sampling, monitoring and investigation obligations upon SWR, as well as obligations relating to capping, closure and rehabilitation of the Cell in due course. Capping and rehabilitation of closed cells on site occur concurrently with existing operations.

The site's EPA approved *Treatment Area Environment Management Plan (TAEMP)* will be updated to include specific detail around all aspects of handling and management of PFAS contaminated waste.

Where is PFAS contaminated waste currently stored?

PFAS have been commonly used in household products and specialty applications such as non-stick cookware, paints, textiles, coatings and food packaging, as well as firefighting foams, hydraulic fluid and mist suppressants.

PFAS waste streams are generated and remain on source sites across South Australia and Australia, where they pose an ongoing risk to the environment if not managed appropriately.

The majority of PFAS contaminated waste has been generated by sites that have used aqueous film forming foams (AFFF) historically for fighting training/management purposes onsite including:

- **Defence sites;**
- **Aviation sector;**
- **Industrial sites.**

How long will it take to fill the Cell and what happens then?

Given the Cell will continue to receive and dispose of many other waste streams, in addition to any PFAS contaminated waste, it is expected to take between 2.5 to 3 years to fill, based on current incoming waste volumes.

Once it has been filled, an engineered barrier layer, soil protection layer and vegetative layer will be applied to the capped and closed Cell. Further infrastructure will also be installed to divert all stormwater off the final capped surface.

Following its closure, the Cell will continue to be managed and monitored including frequent inspection of the capped surface. Regular inspections of the capped surface ensure long term performance and function of the engineered capping layer, which will contribute to improved protection of groundwater and surface-water resources.

LOCATION

The Disposal Cell is located at Southern Waste ResourceCo at McLaren Vale, approximately 35 kilometres south of Adelaide.

The site at 2605 Main South Road in McLaren Vale, has been operating as a major leading waste, recycling centre and soil treatment base since 1993.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Get in touch with us to find out how we can help to address the remediation of contaminated sites.

Please contact Southern Waste ResourceCo to find out how we can help or assist you with further details.

Call us on 1300 696 733 or email SWR@resourceco.com.au

www.resourceco.com.au