

Environmental Monitoring – Noise

Noise levels are monitored in the community through the use of unattended 'noise loggers', a noise measurement device that runs continuously and doesn't require an operator. Noise is also monitored each week by trained environmental officers using a 'Rion NA27', an instrument that helps them measure and identify each separate noise source they can hear.

The noise data set that is compiled is used by Thies Services to manage noise from the Rhodes Remediation Projects. When necessary and feasible, noise control practices

are implemented on site with the aim of achieving established noise level targets.

Continuous, *unattended* monitoring of noise levels at nearby residential receptors is undertaken to *assess trends and fluctuations* in daytime, evening and night time ambient



Above: Arnaud Devorsine, Environmental Consultant – Parsons Brinckerhoff, checks the battery of a 'noise logger' located in Marquet Street, Rhodes.

noise. Unattended noise monitoring is undertaken at Blaxland Road and Marquet Street in Rhodes, and at Meadow Crescent in Meadowbank. Data is downloaded, analysed and reported from each of the three noise loggers on a weekly basis.

Monitoring of noise levels at nearby residential receptors by trained environmental officers is required to *characterise* ambient noise at the monitoring locations. As the results of unattended monitoring show noise levels from all community noise sources, *operator-attended* monitoring is important for determining the degree to which the Rhodes remediation sites contribute to overall community noise.

Rhodes
REMEDICATION
PROJECTS
Homebush Bay and the former
Lednez and Allied Feeds sites



24 hour toll free line
1800 009 414
www.rhodesremediation.com.au

NEWSLETTER

May 2007, Issue 7

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- How noise is monitored
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Register for an 'Odour Alert'

Do you have an e-mail address? Would you like to be informed of possible odour impacts in the local community whenever highly odorous wastes are being excavated?

If so, send your name, address, phone number and e-mail address to: rhodesremediation@thies-services.com.au

Welcome to the seventh project newsletter for the Thies Services Rhodes Remediation Projects ...aimed at keeping the community informed of the remediation activities underway.

The Rhodes Community Consultative Committee (RCCC)

The RCCC is comprised of approximately 20 residents from communities surrounding the Rhodes Peninsula, including Rhodes, Concord West, Homebush Bay, Liberty Grove, Meadowbank, West Ryde and Melrose Park. An additional 20 members represent developers and remediators working in the area; State Government Departments such as the Department of Planning, the Department of Health, and the Department of Environment & Conservation; and Local Government Councils such as the City of Canada Bay Council and Ryde Council.

The committee meets monthly, and is presented with updates and data on the remediation and development projects by the proponents involved. The RCCC has an independent Chairperson, **Mr John Kent**. John's contact details are 0419 497 033 or jk@wvsydney.com

You are most welcome to join the committee or attend a meeting as a visitor.

For information about the next meeting, please call the Thies Services Community Contact Line on **1800 009 414**.

Project Activities - the next 3 months

Lednez & Homebush Bay project

- Complete excavation then validate Stage 2 area.
- Backfill Stage 2 area and hand over to client.
- Complete construction of Stage 2 seawall.
- Stockpile, cover and store material needing treatment until the thermal treatment plant is constructed and commissioned.
- Install sheet piling at southern end of project for Stage 3 seawall construction.
- Install services for DTD plant and pre-treatment building (PTB).
- Commence Stage 3 excavations.

- Manufacture DTD plant (off site).
- Fabricate PTB Emissions Control System (off site).
- Ongoing water treatment plant operations.
- Continue environmental monitoring.
- Undertake bay works trial; commence bay works remediation.

Allied Feeds project

- Continue with excavation of contaminated materials requiring thermal treatment in the western portion of the site.
- Validate excavated surfaces.
- Test and classify stockpiled materials prior to reinstatement on the site.
- Process materials prior to thermal treatment in the pre-treatment building.

- Continue with commercial scale DTD plant operations.
- Test and classify stockpiled materials prior to reinstatement on the site.
- Remove surplus stockpiled materials from the site.
- Complete bulk excavation works and validation testing for residential Lot 101 along Walker Street.
- Complete sheet piling installation for seawall construction.
- Continue demolition and reconstruction of the seawall.
- Ongoing water treatment plant operations.
- Continue environmental monitoring including stack compliance testing.

Community Contact Details

We value your feedback. If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know.

Ph: 24 hour toll free line: 1800 009 414 **E-mail:** rhodesremediation@thies-services.com.au

Web: www.rhodesremediation.com.au **Post:** 40 Walker Street, or PO Box 3064, Rhodes NSW 2138

Thank you for your cooperation and patience during these environmental remediation works.



Above: Aerial view of the Rhodes Remediation Projects, March 2007.

THE CLEAN UP CONTINUES

Thiess Services has been contracted to remediate two neighbouring sites at Walker Street, Rhodes. The sites are known as the former Lednez/ Union Carbide site and the former Allied Feeds site. Both sites require remediation (a clean-up of the soil) as a result of past chemical manufacturing works on the former Lednez/Union Carbide site. Remediation works commenced in 2005.

For more details on the history of these sites, to view environmental information or to download copies of the newsletters, visit www.rhodesremediation.com.au

Strict environmental controls and standards are being implemented on both sites to ensure the health and safety of workers and the community. All work is being undertaken in close consultation with Local Government and community members, as well as with State Government agencies including the Department of Environment and Climate Change, NSW Maritime, the Department of Planning and the NSW Health Department.

Seawall Construction Noise

- A new 850m long seawall is being constructed as part of the Homebush Bay remediation works.
- Sometimes you may hear 'clanging' or other noise during the day as the sheet piles are driven 2m into rock using a drop hammer or a hydraulic hammer.
- The sheet piling works will be ongoing throughout 2007.

Lednez Project Update

Odour-Control Enclosure Complete

Thiess Services understands that odour from the remediation projects is sometimes unpleasant and consequently, management is committed to finding new ways to reduce its impact. In response to community concerns, an odour-control enclosure has recently been constructed over the contaminated soil storage cell on the Lednez project (former Union Carbide site). By covering the storage cell, the concentration of odour that is picked up by wind and carried into the community will be reduced.

The cable supported structure is approximately 100 metres long by 100 metres wide and nine metres high. Made of high-density polyethylene plastic, it encloses material in the cell that is destined for thermal contaminant-removal treatment. The enclosure will also improve the targeted application of perfumed suppressants and deodorisers that are sprayed in the vicinity of wastes to reduce their negative odour.

The construction of the odour-control enclosure was one of the modifications

outlined in the Section 96(2) proposal that Thiess Services lodged with the Department of Planning in September 2006. With the approval of this proposal, a number of changes have come into effect on the Lednez project.

Change to Thermal Treatment Operations

Thermal desorption is a well established technology with a 20-year history for treating hazardous wastes in the United States and Europe.

The thermal treatment plant that will be built on the Lednez site will now use directly-heated thermal desorption (DTD) instead of indirectly-heated thermal desorption (ITD), the originally proposed technology. DTD is currently being used to treat contaminated material on the adjoining Allied Feeds site. It will allow the treatment component of the Lednez project to be accelerated, with a corresponding reduction in associated impacts. The new DTD plant will meet best practice standards as required by the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (United Nations, 2004).



Above: The new odour-control enclosure over the contaminated soil storage cell on the Lednez site.

Increased Scope of Homebush Bay Remediation

The previously approved area for Homebush Bay sediment excavation occupied approximately 5.2 hectares and extended on average 45m from the existing seawall over a length of 1160m. The approval of the Section 96(2) proposal now means that a larger area of Homebush Bay will be remediated.

Bay works will now include a large dioxin hotspot located south-west of the Lednez site, and the full extent of three other smaller hotspots near the foreshore. They are the most contaminated parts of the bay outside of the previously approved footprint.

Within the remediation area, sediment will be removed to a depth of 0.5m, and the excavation reinstated with clean materials from the Lednez site.

This newly approved area is 45 per cent larger than the previously approved footprint. It will reduce the existing bay-wide dioxin concentration by 53 per cent compared to 33 per cent under the previous proposal.



Above: Seawall construction, April 2007.



Above: Drawing showing the newly approved Homebush Bay sediment remediation area – 45% larger than before.