



Stage two PFAS investigation results confirm Hunter Valley Mines Rescue site is low risk

Singleton (Australia), 20 October 2017 —

In December 2016 NSW Mines Rescue (Mines Rescue) voluntarily entered the NSW Environment Protection Authority's (EPA) investigation program assessing the legacy of per- and poly- fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) use across NSW as a precautionary measure.

Following the initial preliminary sampling at Hunter Valley Mines Rescue station in April 2017, which confirmed traces of PFAS in the soil, further testing was undertaken by environmental consultant GHD in line with EPA recommendations and guidelines. The primary purpose of the testing was to identify potential pathways to human exposure and sensitive environmental receptors by identifying the presence and extent of PFAS in ground and surface water locations.

The test results have been received and analysed.

Matthew Fellowes, General Manager of Mines Rescue and Regulation & Compliance confirmed that 19 tests were completed; 12 on site, 7 off site.

He said 'The second stage of investigations has confirmed the presence of PFAS in some locations on and off site at levels which are higher than current guidelines. However, the overall assessment of risk to human health and to environmental receptors is still considered to be low.

'This is due largely to the presence of municipal drinking water in all nearby areas to the station and the unlikelihood that any presence of PFAS within ground water, surface water, soil or sediment on or off site is being ingested by humans.

'It is important that our surrounding site neighbours and the broader Singleton community are reminded that more than 90 per cent of exposure to PFAS is through ingestion of water and food/animals which have been exposed to PFAS-contaminated water; which is extremely unlikely at or from our Hunter Valley Mines Rescue site.

'However; we will be doing some further monitoring to check wet weather and seasonal variations. This is in line with the EPA investigation process and the requirement to thoroughly research any other human health or environmental receptor pathways going off site.'

A proposed approach and plan have been agreed to by the EPA and Coal Services. A timeframe has yet to be finalised for these further investigations.

Lithgow

T: +61 (2) 6350 1000
F: +61 (2) 6352 3684
3 Proto Avenue
Lithgow NSW 2790
PO Box 338
Lithgow NSW 2790

Mudgee

T: +61 (2) 6370 6100
F: +61 (2) 6372 2470
4/64 Sydney Road
Mudgee NSW 2850
PO Box 1156
Mudgee NSW 2850

Newcastle

T: +61 (2) 4922 4400
F: +61 (2) 4958 3504
533 Lake Road
Argenton NSW 2284
PO Box 146
Boolaroo NSW 2284

Singleton

T: +61 (2) 6573 9000
F: +61 (2) 6573 2007
6 Lachlan Avenue
Singleton Heights NSW 2330

Woonona

T: +61 (2) 4286 5499
F: +61 (2) 4285 1397
558-580 Princes Highway
Woonona NSW 2517
PO Box 41
Corrimal NSW 2518

No formal precautionary advice is required for the Hunter Valley site, or any of the affected Mines Rescue sites, whilst further testing occurs.

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For further facts and information on use of PFAS at NSW Mines Rescue Stage two investigation please visit:

<http://www.minesrescueservices.com/PFAS-investigation-update-October-2017.aspx>

About NSW Mines Rescue:

Mines Rescue Pty Limited, a subsidiary of Coal Services Pty Limited, is a nationally recognised Registered Training Organisation, with more than 90 years of experience assisting the NSW coal mining industry to manage risk and operate safely.

The primary role of Mines Rescue is to provide emergency and incident response to underground mines throughout NSW. Mines Rescue are also a primary provider of specialist training to industry, which assists in supporting continuous improvements in safety standards. These critical services support NSW coal mine workers, employers and communities and demonstrate an ongoing commitment to maintaining a safe workplace and a healthy workforce.

With offices providing services throughout NSW, Mines Rescue maintain an international reputation for excellence, to which they credit the expert training team, in addition to maintaining the most modern equipment and training facilities.

Visit www.coalservices.com.au for more information

For more information on this media release please contact:

Belinda Ward—Marketing Manager Coal Services

Mobile: 0419 148 135

belinda.ward@coalservices.com.au