

Questions:

I am seeking information regarding PFAS contamination at the Stokes Hill Naval Fuel Installation in Darwin, NT.

This Defence document from 2013 states that firefighting chemical contamination was found in groundwater there.

http://www.defence.gov.au/id/_Master/docs/NCRP/NT/0108StokesHillNavalFuelInstallationNT.pdf

What were the levels of PFAS contamination found at the site?

What testing has been done since 2013 and what are the results?

What plans are in place to remediate the site and remove the PFAS contamination?

Who will pay for the remediation – Defence or the Northern Territory Government?

How much is the remediation expected to cost?

Response:

In March 2013, routine water monitoring of groundwater was undertaken at Stokes Hill Naval Fuel Installation which detected the presence of PFAS on the property. In 2016, Defence announced the National PFAS Investigation and Management Program, which is potentially the largest environmental program of its kind in Australian history.

Noting the significant effort required to properly plan, communicate and coordinate the body of work associated with the National PFAS Investigation and Management Program, Defence engaged an experienced independent environmental consultancy firm to review the historical use of legacy firefighting foam across the Defence estate. As a result of the review, Stokes Hill Naval Fuel Installation was identified as a property where gaps in current information relating to the use of PFAS on the property required further consideration. Defence is conducting initial assessments to address gaps in current information to determine whether Stokes Hill Naval Fuel Installation requires a detailed environmental investigation. Defence will advise the local community prior to any commencement of a detailed environmental investigation at Stokes Hill Naval Fuel Installation.

If a detailed environmental investigation at Stokes Hill Naval Fuel Installation proceeds it will be conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure framework. The

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investigation would take approximately 12 months to complete and would determine the nature and extent of PFAS in and around the property.

As a detailed environmental investigation has not been carried out at Stokes Hill Naval Fuel Installation at this time, it is not possible to determine what remediation, if any, is required at the site.

The Stokes Hill Naval Fuel Installation ceased operations in 2014 and is surplus to Defence requirements. Defence is currently working with the Northern Territory Government to progress due diligence requirements to inform the future sale of the property. This due diligence will further consider the presence of PFAS.

Defence will continue to engage with the Northern Territory Government regarding the divestment and management of the Stokes Hill Naval Fuel Installation.

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