

Mercury Ambient Air Monitoring Results

The EPA engaged Access Macquarie Limited (Macquarie University), Department of Environment and Geography, to undertake mercury ambient air monitoring at Orica's Matraville premises in February 2014 to independently verify the low level results from monitoring required under the company's Environment Protection Licence.

Macquarie University undertook monitoring for 24-hour periods over 6-8 February at two sites in the vicinity of Orica's former chlor alkali plant (FCAP) at Botany Industrial Park (BIP).

The testing was undertaken with dual monitors run in parallel to verify data, and with the wind blowing generally from the remediation site towards the monitors.

Summary of results

The results show very small concentrations of mercury, which are significantly below the World Health Organisation recommendation for a tolerable daily level in air of 0.2µg/m³ (0.2 micrograms per cubic metre or 200 nanograms per cubic metre ng/m³) for elemental mercury vapour. The results were also comparable to the levels recorded by Orica's equipment at the boundary of BIP.

Site 1 – testing conducted over 6-7 February 2014

**Values are measured as nanograms per cubic metre (ng/m³)*

Average recorded value (of both instruments)	1.458ng/m ³
Maximum recorded value	5.633ng/m ³
Minimum recorded value	0.502ng/m ³

Site 2 – testing conducted over 7-8 February 2014

**Values are measured as nanograms per cubic metre (ng/m³)*

Average recorded value (of both instruments)	2.601ng/m ³
Maximum recorded value	8.866ng/m ³
Minimum recorded value	0.835ng/m ³

For a copy of the full report, please email your request to info.botany@epa.nsw.gov.au

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- monitors emerging environmental issues and develops appropriate responses to prevent or minimise adverse impacts through early intervention
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- reforms the regulatory framework for environment protection to strengthen its effectiveness, minimise red tape and optimise compliance costs
- responds to incidents and investigates reports of environmental harm received from the public and industry
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Published by:

Environment Protection Authority

59 Goulburn Street, Sydney NSW 2000

PO Box A290, Sydney South NSW 1232

Phone: (02) 9995 5000 (switchboard)

Phone: 131 555 (environment information and publications requests)

Phone: 1300 361 967 (national parks, climate change and energy efficiency information, and publications requests)

Fax: (02) 9995 5999

TTY users: phone 133 677, then ask for 131 555

Speak and listen users: phone 1300 555 727, then ask for 131 555

Email: info@environment.nsw.gov.au

Website: <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au>

EPA 2014/0303

March 2014