

HAZEL WOOD MINE FIRE INQUIRY**Submission cover sheet**

Post your submission with this cover sheet to:

Submissions Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry
PO Box 3460
GIPPSLAND MC Vic 3841Email your submission with this cover sheet to info@hazelwoodinquiry.vic.gov.au.

Title: <i>MS</i>	First Name: <i>CHRISTINE</i>	Surname: <i>HAMILTON</i>
Organisation represented (if applicable):		
Email address:	[REDACTED]	
Postal address:	<i>Dromana Vic 3936</i>	
Telephone:	[REDACTED]	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Origin and circumstances of fire <input type="checkbox"/> Measures by Hazelwood Coal Mine to prevent fire <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application and administration of regulatory regimes <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please state)	Response to fire by: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hazelwood Coal Mine <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emergency Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental Agencies <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Health Officials <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Government Agencies	

Confidentiality

The Inquiry will consider all requests for confidentiality. Should you wish for your submission or parts of your submission, to be treated as confidential, please clearly state the reason in the space provided below. If you require more room, please attach a separate page and provide together with your submission.

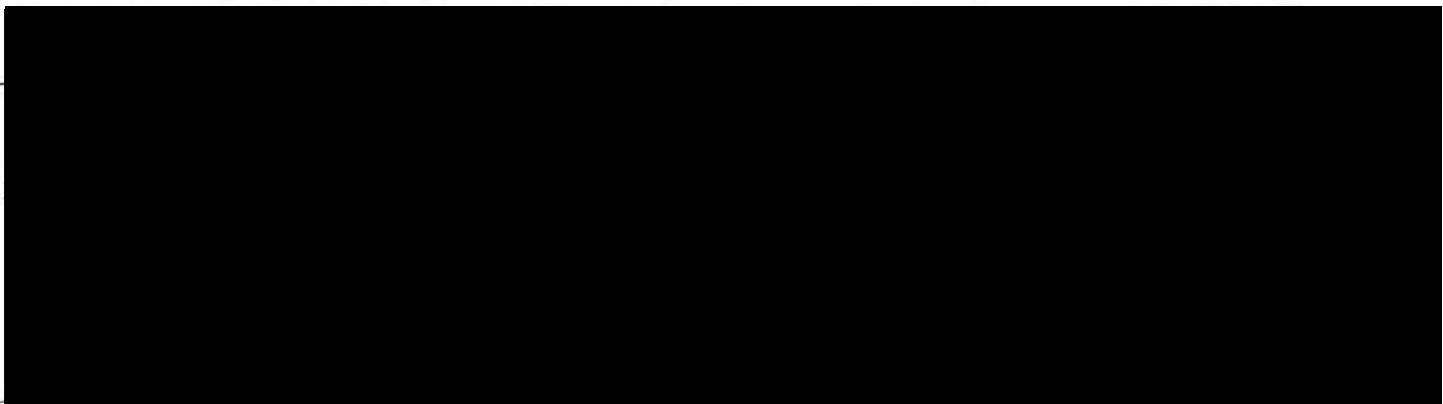
Should the Inquiry consider the request for confidentiality not to be appropriate you will be provided with an opportunity to withdraw your submission or re-submit it in a form suitable for publication.

Please select one of the following options

I acknowledge that my submission will be treated as a public document and may be published, quoted or summarised by the Inquiry.

OR

I request that my submission or parts of my submission, be treated as confidential, and not published quoted or summarised by the Inquiry, for reasons stated below




[Signature] Christine Hamilton - 18-5-14

Acknowledgements

I understand that:

- I can be contacted by the Inquiry in relation to my submission.
- Anonymous submission will not be accepted.
- The name or work or suburb of each submitter will be identified as apart of every published submission. Other contact details will be removed before publishing.
- The Inquiry will not publish submission, if it believes that the submission material is or could be defamatory, offensive, contravenes, anti-discrimination or anti-vilification legislation or is outside the scope of the Inquiry's terms of reference

Signature

 Christine Henken

OR if sending electronically please confirm your acknowledgment by ticking by box

Date 18-5-14.



Fw: CHRISTINE HAMILTON FORMAL SUBMISSION TO HAZELWOOD MINE FIRE INQUIRY

info to: [REDACTED]
Sent by: info@hazelwoodinquiry.vic.gov.au

13/05/2014 09:50 AM

Submission

----- Forwarded by [REDACTED] HAZELWOODINQUIRY on 13/05/2014 09:50 AM -----



11/05/2014 09:44 PM

To Hazelwood Inquiry
info/DPC@DTF
cc
bcc
Subject CHRISTINE HAMILTON FORMAL
SUBMISSION TO HAZELWOOD
MINE FIRE INQUIRY

Hello,

I think this is the most important email i have ever sent. (if you have a minute, can you please let me know it arrived safely)

Please find attached the word document that is my submission.

My friend is handing in a hard copy version in a folder Monday 12th May, but there are some important additions to this emailed version.

I was trying to make it easy to look at by doing a hard copy, to just read through, but some things have unfolded since I did the hard copy, so I have included them at the end of this electronic version of my submission.

The most important thing I can say to you all is this;

This Inquiry is not just about The Latrobe Valley, the already approved mining licences for Australia and projected mining shows, in the future most of us will live near some sort of mine, when you consider, a lot of that mining is going to be Uranium, and the bi-product of that is Radon Gas, I pray to God, that we can get it right now, let this Morwell Open Cut Mine Fire be the start of change, change to a much better standard of Duty of Care from Companies to humans and from Government to their people, or.....there will be nowhere left to go that will be worth living. Please, please do your best to make an example of this situation and send a very loud clear message for change for the better.

Thank you to Justice Bernard Teague, and the Board,

Yours faithfully



Christine Hamilton CHRISTINE HAMILTON formal submission to hazelwood mne fire inquiry .doc

FORMAL SUBMISSION TO HAZELWOOD MINE FIRE INQUIRY

*This is emailed version with **IMPORTANT additions** to the hard copy in a folder to be handed in for me*

25th April 2014

From: Christine Hamilton [REDACTED] Dromana Victoria 3936 [REDACTED]

To the Honorable Justice Teague and Board;

Background Story

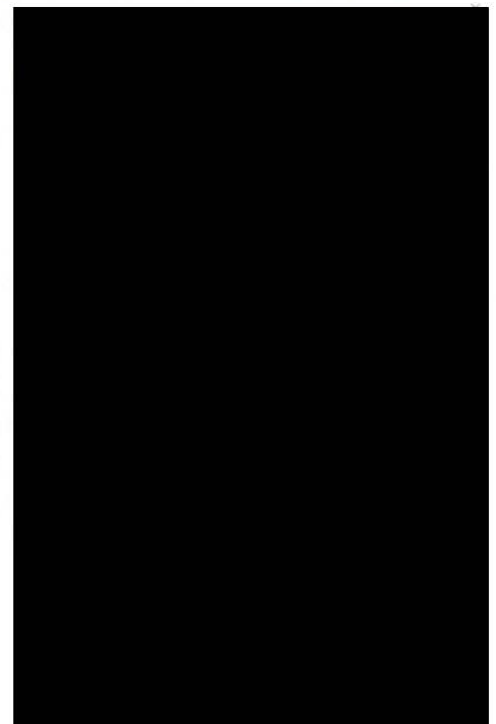
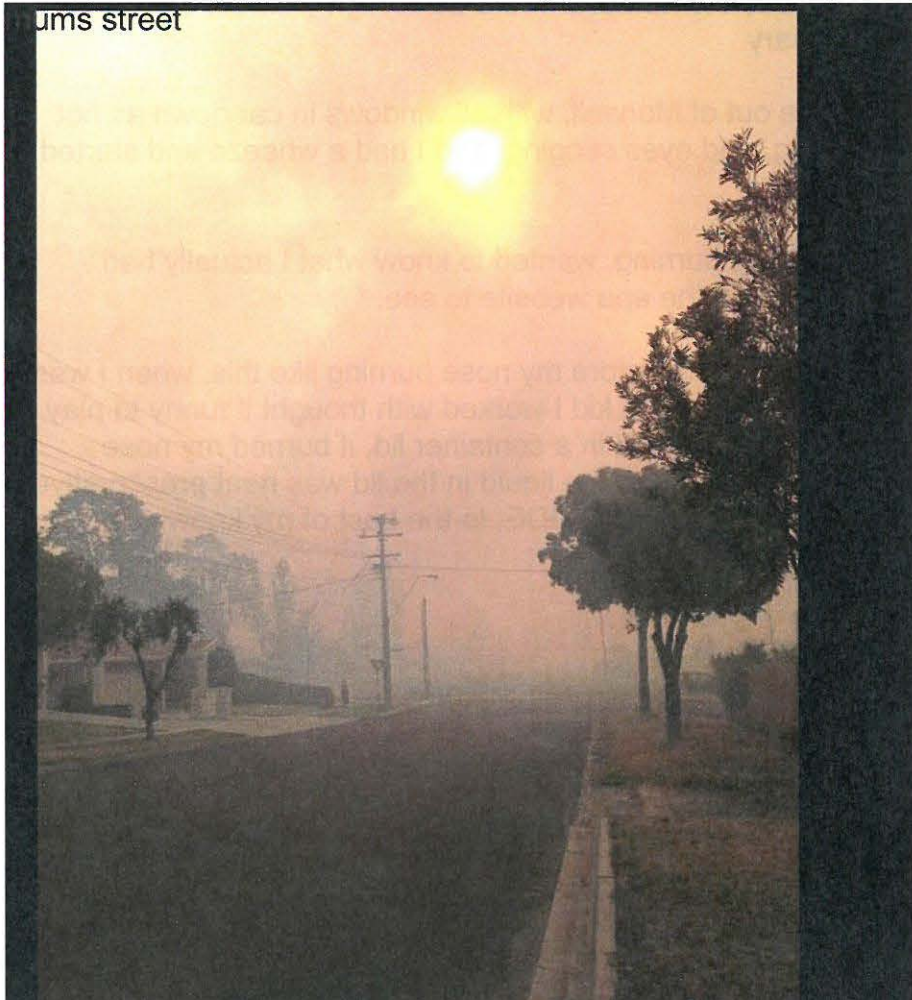
I work in Community Health, Group Supervisor for Planned activity groups for Central Bayside Community Health, 12 years now.

I met Robert Corser a long time resident of Morwell a number of years ago in Second Life, a virtual world, then added him as a friend on facebook,

On 9th February 2014, I was on bushfire watch, at home, listening to the cfa streaming scanner could hear exactly what was happening in the Hearne Oak area and Morwell, was very distressing situation, as you will read from the transcripts from the communications that day which I have been assured you will be receiving, I wish you could actually listen to it for yourself though, they were calling for an ambulance at one point, every time they tried to get the co-ordinates to vicfire and why they needed the ambulance, communications broke down, very upsetting and frustrating.

A couple of days later on facebook, my friend Robert was posting photos of around morwell, his

ums street



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2.

I was horrified, so I started messaging Robert and asking questions.

A short time after, the facebook page Disaster in the Valley was formed and a community meeting protest organized.

I was gathering by this point that evacuations were not happening, people were sick and desperate from relief from the smoke, nobody seemed to know very much what was happening, firefighters had wound up in hospital with carbon monoxide poisoning and everyone was frightened.

Of course wanting to support my friend Robert and his community I asked my daughter Eve, 22, and her mates if they would come and give support, advising them that anyone with asthma or health issues should not come, and we should all wear masks.

6 cars all together did the drive down on Sunday 2nd March, proud of the kids for caring.

We arrived at Kernot Hall parked over on the grass away from the hall and started to walk over, not wearing the masks we took along as the smoke didn't look too bad.

I noticed very quickly I found it difficult to walk and talk at same time, like I was out of breath, not like me at all, felt like not much oxygen in the air, like I think it would be at high altitude. Still we did not wear the masks as we didn't think necessary.

We were in the Valley bout 3 hours, as I drove out of Morwell, with all windows in car down as hot day, I noticed my nose started burning/stinging, and eyes stinging, and I had a wheeze and started with a dry persistent cough.

I got home bout 7pm that night, and still with nose burning, wanted to know what I actually had been breathing in that day so straight away went to the epa website to see.

Whilst looking at the Epa website, I remembered once before my nose burning like this, when I was bout 15 years old I worked in a butchers shop part time, a kid I worked with thought it funny to play a trick on me and said, "have a whiff of this" so I did, liquid in a container lid, it burned my nose made my eyes water it was terrible and went on for hours, the liquid in the lid was neat preservative for the sausages, which I looked up and was SULPHUR DIOXIDE, to the best of my knowledge.

3.

The chart was this that I looked at

EPA air quality hourly update: March 2, 2014 2.00 pm - 3.00 pm

Please note that current data may not be shown for some air quality monitoring stations. Measurements are made continuously at air monitoring stations, but there may be temporary technical issues with the collection and display of data.

Hour: [current](#) | [next](#) | [previous](#) | [choose...](#) Show: [data readings](#) | [index values](#)

		Data readings					Air quality index			
Region	Station	Carbon Monoxide	Ozone	Nitrogen Dioxide	Sulfur Dioxide	Particles as PM2.5	Particles as PM10	Visibility Reduction	AQI	Summary
		Units	ppm	ppb	ppb	ug/m3	ug/m3	none		
EAST	Alphington	0.1	19	2	0	7.3	7.8	0.30	29	VERY GOOD
	Box Hill		21				10.4	0.33	21	VERY GOOD
	Brighton		16	1			7.4	0.29	16	VERY GOOD
	Dandenong		20	2			9.2	0.31	20	VERY GOOD
	Mooroolbark	0.1	22	1			9.7	0.31	22	VERY GOOD
WEST	Altona North		18	1	0					N/A
	Brooklyn						6.7	0.30	13	VERY GOOD
	Deer Park		25	3			12.1	0.38	25	VERY GOOD
	Footscray	0.1	19	1	0		9.1	0.31	19	VERY GOOD
	Melton		22							N/A
	Pt. Cook		18	1				0.30	19	VERY GOOD
CITY	Richmond	0.0		2			9.6	0.32	14	VERY GOOD
GEELONG	Geelong Sth.	0.0	15	1	0		0.0	0.28	15	VERY GOOD
LATROBE VALLEY	Morwell South	0.8			0	49.5		1.41	198	VERY POOR
	Morwell East	0.4			9	26.2		2.06	105	POOR
	Traralgon	0.4	24	7	11		36.4	1.74	74	FAIR

[View the hourly air quality interactive map.](#)

Air quality index

Which lead me to wonder, but where is the breakdown of PM2.5 particles, what are PM2.5 particles?

When I failed to find the information I wanted that night on the epa website, I sent them this series of emails, which are not over yet, please see in order of date.

I coughed all night and wheezed and my nose burned right into the next day and my absolute shock and disbelief is continuing still and shows no signs of diminishing.

4.

Please note, the below email came with attachment, EPA AIR QUALITY BROCHURE pdf 180124

*From: "Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising" [REDACTED]
To: <contact@epa.vic.gov.au>
Subject: morwell hazelwood
Date: Sunday, 2 March 2014 10:49 PM*

Hello,

We travelled down to Morwell today to show support for the people.

I am still coughing and wheezing and my nose is stinging at 11.30pm, I arrived home at approx 6pm, I was in Morwell for approx 3 hours.

I was looking at your hourly air report, for Morwell and I had trouble realising, the measurement for ACCEPTABLE AIR QUALITY, in comparison for PM2.5 27.5/RED I went to the table for statewide to try to compare and realise what acceptable levels were, say for example, what would the level for not being able to breathe at all and you would die?

And also, PARTICLES?

"Particles" is a very broad term, particles of what exactly? Is there another link where I can see the different particles, like benzene gas, carbon dioxide, arsenic, lead or mercury? Surely there must be, but I can't find it.

Also when you give a SMOKE ALERT, it isn't just smoke, it is toxic smoke, so is there somewhere that tells me exactly in parts what properties are in the smoke, I cant find that either.

I look forward to your reply and expect that you will give this your earliest attention.

Thank you

*Christine Hamilton
CONCERNED AUSTRALIAN*

5.

From: "contact" <contact@epa.vic.gov.au>

To: "Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising" [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: morwell hazelwood

Date: Monday, 3 March 2014 11:44 AM

Dear Christine,

Thank you for your email to EPA Victoria.

We appreciate you taking the time to get in touch and understand that you have a number of questions and concerns regarding the air quality in your local and surrounding areas.

EPA Victoria is responsible for monitoring and testing air quality across the state. The data is provided to the Department of Health to assess human health impacts due to changes in air quality.

EPA Victoria is currently using a range of equipment to test for Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), dioxins and heavy metals. Samples have been taken and sent off for analysis. As soon as the results are finalised, EPA will be making them publicly available and publishing them on our website www.epa.vic.gov.au<<http://www.epa.vic.gov.au>>

This sampling will take at least 2 weeks.

In response to the Hazelwood mine fire, EPA has doubled air quality monitoring in the Latrobe Valley region and sent in scientific experts to closely monitor the air quality data.

EPA is issuing air quality updates twice daily which include advice for the local community in line with the current air quality.

The EPA appreciates your patience and understanding as information becomes available and hope you have been able to source updates via our website <http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/our-work/monitoring-the-environment/air-quality-bulletins/hourly-air-quality-interactive-map> and <http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/your-environment/air/bushfires-and-air-quality>, via EPA's Pollution Hotline 1300 EPA VIC (1300 327 842), or in person by speaking to an EPA ground staff member or public health officer in the Morwell area or at the Community Respite Centre.

Attached to this email is an Air Quality bulletin, just released by the EPA. This contains information on our role, monitoring and where to obtain further information.

We also recommend contacting the Department of Health on 1300 606 024 if you have any health queries.

More information can be found at the below:

- * Smoke and health: www.health.vic.gov.au<<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/>>
- * Health and medical advice: NURSE-ON-CALL 1300 60 60 24
- * Air quality: www.epa.vic.gov.au or 1300 372 842 (1300 EPAVIC)
- * Fire warnings and advice: www.emergency.vic.gov.au<<http://www.emergency.vic.gov.au/>>
- * Hazelwood fire information: cfa.vic.gov.au

Should you have additional questions, please forward your contact number so we can call to discuss with you.

Regards,

[REDACTED]
Customer Service Team

EPA Victoria

6.

Please note, my question to EPA below, FIRE STARTED 9TH FEBRUARY, IS NOW 3RD MARCH ANOTHER 2 WEEKS.....?.....to get an idea of what we have been breathing?

From: "Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising" [REDACTED]

To: "contact" <contact@epa.vic.gov.au>

Subject: Re: morwell hazelwood

Date: Monday, 3 March 2014 9:55 PM

Hello [REDACTED]

Thank you for your reply.

Can you please tell me in total how many weeks it takes for this kind of testing?

Thank you

Christine Hamilton

NO REPLY SO I FORWARD AGAIN on 4th March

From: "Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising" [REDACTED]

To: "contact" <contact@epa.vic.gov.au>

Subject: Fw: morwell hazelwood

Date: Tuesday, 4 March 2014 5:18 PM

----- Original Message -----

From: Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising

To: contact

Sent: Monday, March 03, 2014 10:55 PM

Subject: Re: morwell hazelwood

Hello [REDACTED]

Thank you for your reply.

Can you please tell me in total how many weeks it takes for this kind of testing?

Thank you

Christine Hamilton

7,

When I get home from work the night of 4th March still no reply so I send this

From: "Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising" [REDACTED]
To: "contact" <contact@epa.vic.gov.au>
Subject: HAZELWOOD MINE FIRE MORWELL
Date: Tuesday, 4 March 2014 5:47 PM

ATTENTION: [REDACTED]

Further to your previous response to me advising that test results for VOCs will be at least 2 weeks,

Can you please advise me on HOW LONG IN TOTAL WEEKS FROM TIME OF GATHERING AIR SAMPLES DOES IT TAKE TO GET THE TEST RESULTS?

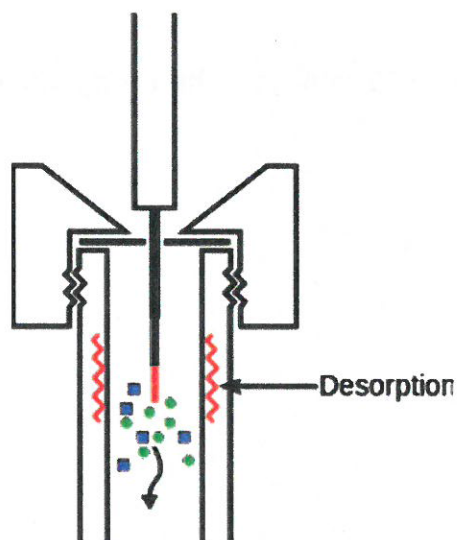
ALSO, CAN YOU ADVISE IF THIS IS ONE OF THE TECHNIQUES THAT IS USED TO CARRY OUT TESTING FOR VOCs

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solid-phase_microextraction

PLEASE NOTE THE USE OF THE WORD "FAST"
AND THE SENTENCE "SAMPLES CAN BE ANALYZED DAYS LATER IN THE LABORATORY
WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT LOSS OF VOLATILES"

Solid-phase microextraction

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



SPME

8.

Solid-phase microextraction, or **SPME**, is a sample preparation technique used both in the laboratory and on-site. Developed in the early 1990s at the [University of Waterloo](#) by Dr. Pawliszyn's group, it is a simple and inexpensive technique where the use of solvents is not necessary.

SPME can be thought of as a very short [gas chromatography](#) column turned inside out. SPME involves the use of a fiber coated with an extracting phase, that can be a liquid ([polymer](#)) or a solid ([sorbent](#)), which extracts different kinds of [analytes](#) (including both [volatile](#) and non-volatile) from different kinds of media, that can be in liquid or gas phase.^[1] The quantity of analyte extracted by the fibre is proportional to its concentration in the sample as long as [equilibrium](#) is reached or, in case of short time pre-equilibrium, with help of [convection](#) or agitation. After extraction, the SPME fiber is transferred to the injection port of separating instruments, such as a [Gas Chromatograph](#), where [desorption](#) of the analyte takes place and analysis is carried out.

The attraction of SPME is that the extraction is fast and simple and can be done usually without solvents, and detection limits can reach parts per trillion (ppt) levels for certain compounds. SPME also has great potential for field applications; on-site sampling can be done even by nonscientists without the need to have gas chromatography-mass spectrometry equipment at each location. When properly stored, samples can be analyzed days later in the laboratory without significant loss of volatiles.

Books[\[edit\]](#)

I look forward to your response

Kind Regards
Christine.

After this I sent an email to Ombudsman Victoria explaining hoping for some help

From: "Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising" [REDACTED]
To: <ombudvic@ombudsman.vic.gov.au>
Subject: MORWELL HAZELWOOD MINE FIRE
Date: Tuesday, 4 March 2014 6:20 PM

Then I sent explaining up till now to 60 minutes, the today show, accurent affair, abc etc

9.

I then sent this enquiry with reply to Air Labs Environmental on 4th March as still no reply from EPA

Hi Christine

Normal turn-around analysis for VOCs is 10 working days. Priority analysis takes around 5 working days.

Cheers

.....
[REDACTED] PhD(Chem.Eng.)
Laboratory Manager & Director | Airlabs Environmental Pty Ltd

[REDACTED] Loganholme QLD 4129

[REDACTED] W: www.airlabs.com.au

WORKFLOW NOTIFICATION

This is a notification for a step of a workflow that you are responsible for. No action is required on your behalf.

This notification is for item **Air Labs - Contact Us Form**.

The current step of the workflow **Customer Enquiry Workflow** requires all user that belongs to role **Users** to be notified.

Click on the link below to view this item

[View this item](#) (Secure Link)

Summary of web form submission:

Your Name

christine hamilton

Email Address

[REDACTED]

Case Number

5700337

Home Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Cell Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Enquiry

Hello, i was wondering if you could tell me how long it would take from the time of testing to get results for VOCs Volcanic Organic Compounds,

THANK YOU

Company Name

10.

Then this to the Ombudsman

*From: "Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising" [REDACTED]
To: "contact" <contact@epa.vic.gov.au>
Cc: <ombudvic@ombudsman.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Fw: VOC analysis
Date: Wednesday, 5 March 2014 5:51 PM*

**ATTENTION: EPA
OMBUDSMAN VICTORIA**

THE PEOPLE OF MORWELL HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW WHAT THEY ARE BREATHING, AND SHOULD BE EVACUATED IF THEY ARE BEING POISONED,

THERE IS AN URGENCY FOR THIS MATTER TO BE ATTENDED TO AS HUMAN LIFE HAS ALREADY BEEN AFFECTED.

PLEASE FIND BELOW THE ANSWER TO MY QUESTION TO "AIR LABS" ABOUT TIME FOR RESULTS OF VOC TESTING,

I COULD BE WRONG, BUT I WOULD IMAGINE IF PRIORITY TESTING IS 5 WORKING DAYS TURNAROUND, THEN EMERGENCY TURNAROUND WOULD BE EVEN QUICKER.

THE MOST DISAPPOINTING THING ABOUT ALL THIS, "I SHOULDN'T HAVE TO BE DOING THIS", NO TRUST ANYMORE.

With copy of answer from Air Labs Environmental from above

At this point, today 6th March ABC Jon Faines producer called me and asked me to speak on radio tomorrow, I didn't really want to speak on radio but it had to be done, I was going to be on before the Premier, then they would try to get answers from him about the lack of test results.

I got home after speaking to the Producer and found the email below from EPA with a magic link for test results that apparently they didn't have.

So I sent email to the Producer telling him of the link and not wanting to speak about this yet.

11.

This response came from EPA but via a fwd from the Ombudsman.

From: "contact" <contact@epa.vic.gov.au>

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Fw: VOC analysis

Date: Thursday, 6 March 2014 12:38 PM

Dear Terry & Christine,

Thank you for your email regarding VOC analysis.

We have been referring people who are impacted by ongoing smoke from the Hazelwood mine fire to the links on our web site for Department of Human services, Department of Health, Nurse on Call and CFA. These links are being updated regularly with current information. I have provided the link to our web site below:

<http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/your-environment/air/bushfires-and-air-quality>

EPA Victoria has given residents impacted by the Hazelwood open cut mine fire direct access to important air quality monitoring data on a new, dedicated site <http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/aq-latrobe-valley-mine-fire>

EPA now has air monitoring stations fanned across the Latrobe Valley giving us an increasingly broad view and predictive ability and we have included using a range of equipment to test for Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), formaldehyde, dioxins and furans as well as continuing to sample for heavy metals.

Samples have been taken and sent off for analysis. As soon as the results are finalised, EPA will be making them publicly available and publishing them on our website as they become available. There are results from samples collected on both the 18 and 24th of February already available.

<http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/our-work/monitoring-the-environment/monitoring-victorias-air/monitoring-results/20140224-hazelwood-mine-fire-water-soil-and-ash-sampling>

The Department of Health and other emergency services are provided with updates of this information regularly and make decisions based on this data.

In addition to the new community website, EPA science and pollution officers are at the respite centers offering information to the public on air quality monitoring, smoke, ash and particulates.

The Victorian Department of Human Services has opened a community respite center in the Latrobe Valley, where residents can seek temporary respite from the smoky conditions caused by the Latrobe Valley mine fires. The center is operating in the Moe Town Hall, Albert Street, from 9am-7pm. It will remain open subject to local demand. The center will offer a cool air conditioned space where any resident can take a break away from the smoky conditions. Representatives from the following organizations will be present:

- Latrobe City Council
- Red Cross
- Victorian Council of Churches
- Ambulance Victoria

12

- Environment Protection Authority (EPA)
- Department of Health
- Victoria's fire services

For more information on the health effects of smoke please contact the Health Department during business hours on 1300 761 874 or go to www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/bushfires.htm

If we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Regards,
Customer Service Team
EPA Victoria
contact@epa.vic.gov.au

Upon looking at the voc test results, I called Chris from Air Labs Environmental, like me he found it very hard to believe that sulphur and other levels could be so low, so I started trying to find someone to do some independent testing for us.

From: "Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising" [REDACTED]
To: <EnviroSales@eurofins.com.au>
Subject: Enquiry from website
Date: Thursday, 6 March 2014 8:35 PM

Hello,

Could you please advise me on how much it would cost to have voc testing, and sulphur dioxide, etc testing of air, water and soil in Morwell.

If it's very expensive, could you please advise of testing cost for each type,

Thank you
Christine.

Then I sent this feeling sure by now the EPA would be doing DAILY VOC TESTING

From: "Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising" [REDACTED]
To: "contact" <contact@epa.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Re: VOC analysis
Date: Wednesday, 12 March 2014 5:19 PM

Hello,

Can you please tell me if you are now doing daily VOC testing in Morwell?

I felt sure that you must be, can you please direct me to where I can find the daily results on your website as I cannot find them.

Thank you
Christine Hamilton.

I received this 13th March from EPA

*From: "contact" <contact@epa.vic.gov.au>
To: "Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising" [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: VOC analysis
Date: Thursday, 13 March 2014 10:02 AM*

Dear Christine,

Thank you for your email regarding VOC analysis. Please be advised that I have forwarded the details of your query to the Customer Support Team for further assistance. The interaction record number, for your reference, is IR192882.

If we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Regards,

[REDACTED]
*Customer Service Team
EPA Victoria
contact@epa.vic.gov.au*

Still no answer to my question by that night so I send this one

*From: "Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising" [REDACTED]
To: "contact" <contact@epa.vic.gov.au>
Subject: IR192882 VOC analysis
Date: Thursday, 13 March 2014 7:08 PM*

I would like a reply from the Customer Support Team at their earliest convenience to direct me to the link for the daily VOC testing results..

I would also like to know if;

In accordance with the Environmental Act 1970 has the EPA appointed and Environmental Auditor to deal with the Morwell Mine Fire Situation.

*Thank you
Christine Hamilton.*

14.

Still no reply on 14th March so I fwd again

From: "Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising" [REDACTED]
To: "contact" <contact@epa.vic.gov.au>
Subject: IR192882 VOC analysis
Date: Friday, 14 March 2014 4:20 PM

----- Original Message -----

From: Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising
To: contact
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 8:08 PM
Subject: IR192882 VOC analysis

I would like a reply from the Customer Support Team at their earliest convenience to direct me to the link for the daily VOC testing results..

I would also like to know if;

In accordance with the Environmental Act 1970 has the EPA appointed and Environmental Auditor to deal with the Morwell Mine Fire Situation.

*Thank you
Christine Hamilton.*

14th March evening I send email explaining everything so far to some ministers asking them to help

From: "Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising" [REDACTED]
To: <senator.brandis@aph.gov.au>
Cc: <senator.conroy@aph.gov.au>; <senator.milne@aph.gov.au>;
<minister@humanservices.gov.au>; <senator.siewert@aph.gov.au>;
<senator.urquhart@aph.gov.au>; <A.Albanese.MP@aph.gov.au>;
<mark.dreyfus.mp@aph.gov.au>; <Greg.Hunt.MP@aph.gov.au>;
<Catherine.King.MP@aph.gov.au>; <Admin@PalmerUnited.com>;
<andrew.wilkie.mp@aph.gov.au>; <Peter.Dutton.MP@aph.gov.au>
Subject: Morwell Mine Fire
Date: Friday, 14 March 2014 6:17 PM

Hello Senator Brandis, and other Minister and Members of Federal Parliament cc.

I want to tell you a story; I have kept all emails and materials as evidence, all safe.

STORY BEGINS;

I am Christine Hamilton, of [REDACTED] Dromana, vic, 3936.

I have one friend in Morwell and have him on facebook, when the Morwell Mine Fire started on 9th February he was posting photos of his area, and I was horrified, the smoke was terrible.

Along with everything else I have explained to you so far Justice Teague

15.

I received this response from EPA 17th March

From: "contact" <contact@epa.vic.gov.au>
To: "'Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising'" [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: IR192882 VOC analysis
Date: Monday, 17 March 2014 8:30 AM

Dear Christine,

Thank you for your email. We apologise for the delay in our response.

Please be advised that I have again forwarded the details of your query to the Customer Support Team for further assistance. The interaction record number, for your reference, is IR194030.

If we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Regards,

[REDACTED]
Customer Service Team
EPA Victoria

JUSTICE TEAGUE, AT THIS POINT NOW I KNOW IN MY JOB WE HAVE FAR MORE DUTY OF CARE AND SO THERE SHOULD BE

I Also have had a couple of computer generated responses from a couple of Ministers, but nothing from a real person Yet.

The evening of 17th March I send this to the EPA

From: "Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising" [REDACTED]
To: "contact" <contact@epa.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Re: IR192882 VOC analysis
Date: Monday, 17 March 2014 5:57 PM

As a tax payer I wish to state that I think the lack of VOC testing and lack of response to the community by the EPA is pathetic.

I sincerely hope that the Inquiry into the Morwell Mine Fire reveals this and that people within the EPA who are responsible are held accountable.

16

Then I receive this from EPA

From: "contact" <contact@epa.vic.gov.au>

To: "'Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising'" [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: IR192882 VOC analysis

Date: Tuesday, 18 March 2014 9:33 AM

Dear Christine,

Thank you for your email.

Our Customer Support Team advises that the VOC results went live on the EPA website last night. I have provided the link to these results below.

<http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/our-work/monitoring-the-environment/monitoring-victorias-air/monitoring-results>

Currently, the VOC results for Morwell South, Morwell East and Maryvale are provided for the dates 26-28 Feb 2014. These results can be accessed by clicking on the left-hand menu under 'Monitoring the environment'.

We thank you for your patience while EPA has worked to provide this information and will continue to work on providing further information on our website in the future.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding these results, please contact us and we can transfer your call to an expert as necessary.

Regards,

*[REDACTED]
Customer Service Team
EPA Victoria*

How hard it has been to get 2 lots of voc testing in 8 weeks, I know you are seeing this.

17.

I sent this to EPA on 18th March

From: "Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising" [REDACTED]
To: "contact" <contact@epa.vic.gov.au>
Subject: IR192882 VOC analysis
Date: Tuesday, 18 March 2014 4:19 PM

So first samples were taken on the 18th February 2014 is that correct, and results for the 24th February,
Now you provide for 26 - 28th Feb 2014.
Today being 17th March 2014.
That's what I mean, it's a joke.
THE FIRE STARTED BURNING 9TH FEBRUARY, it took 9 days for the EPA to even take samples to test?????

Clearly EPA funding and resources are not being applied to the areas that need it most, WHEN AN EMERGENCY HAPPENS.

Thank you for putting everything in writing though, I will be putting in a formal submission to the Inquiry.

Christine Hamilton.

EPA send this as their reply on 19th March

From: "contact" <contact@epa.vic.gov.au>
To: "Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising" [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: IR192882 VOC analysis
Date: Wednesday, 19 March 2014 9:02 AM

Dear Christine,
Thank you for your feedback.
Please be advised that I have forwarded the details of your query to our Customer Support Team for further assistance. The interaction reference number is IR195035.

Regards,

[REDACTED]
Customer Service Team
EPA Victoria

18.

I sent this on 19th March regarding uncapping Old Faithful

From: "Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising" [REDACTED]

To: "contact" <contact@epa.vic.gov.au>

Subject: : IR192882 VOC analysis

Date: Wednesday, 19 March 2014 5:50 PM

I am listening to a conference held today about, THE NORTHERN BATTERS OF MORWELL MINE, AND THE FIRE THAT HAS BEEN BURNING UNDERGROUND MAYBE SINCE THE 1970s,

WHAT IS YOUR PLAN FOR BEING THERE TOMORROW, FOR WHEN THE BATTERS IS OPENED UP WHICH POSSIBLY COULD RELEASE LETHAL DOSE OF GAS AND KILL PEOPLE?

VOC MONITORING TOMORROW??????????

We are receiving advice from an expert Coal Mine Fire Fighter from America, and he is quite concerned about these operations tomorrow and the affect it possibly could have,

AGAIN I REMIND YOU, I AM KEEPING ALL CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN US, THIS EMAIL BEING ONE OF THEM.

EPA I sincerely hope you will get your monitoring equipment down to Morwell Mine tomorrow, and do what you should have been doing every day since 9th February 2014 and do daily VOC testing and publish it for the community.

Christine Hamilton

19.

EPA reply with this on 20th March

From: "contact" <contact@epa.vic.gov.au>

To: "'Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising'" [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: IR192882 VOC analysis

Date: Thursday, 20 March 2014 8:42 AM

Dear Christine,

Thank you for your email regarding VOC monitoring.

Please be advised that I have forwarded the details of your query to the Customer Support Team for further assistance. The interaction record number, for your reference, is IR195550.

In the meantime, you may be interested in reading the latest news update regarding the Hazelwood open cut mine fire, which discusses the northern batters. I have provided the link to our website below.

<http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-us/news-centre/news-and-updates/news/2014/march/19/icc---hazelwood-open-cut-mine-fire-update>

If we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Regards,

[REDACTED]
Customer Service Team
EPA Victoria

20.

EPA regarding VOC test results and USING SYDNEY LAB
Justice Teague, please note the paragraph about use of Sydney Lab

From: [REDACTED]
To: <phoenix.rising@bigpond.com>
Subject: VOC analysis
Date: Friday, 21 March 2014 8:55 AM

Dear Christine,
Thanks for your feedback regarding the work that EPA has been conducting in Morwell.

In relation to testing, the focus and priority was on the priority pollutants that were likely to be in the highest concentrations in air, small particles PM2.5 and carbon monoxide. These pollutants are routinely monitored and the levels can be readily assessed against the national air quality standards. This monitoring data is critical in air quality impact assessments and guiding the issuing of smoke advisories, smoke alerts and providing data to the Department of Health to assist with understanding likely health impacts and possible relocations. After the monitoring programs for the priority pollutants were adequately in place the monitoring for other specific air pollutants such as VOCs were commenced.

VOCs in air is not routinely monitored and monitoring is typically undertaken for 12 months for specific projects. This is to allow an assessment against the 12 month National Environment Protection Measure Monitoring Investigation Level. Various VOCs are being sampled over a seven day period for 52 weeks to determine a 12 month average. Sampling every day will provide a representative 12 month average. Sampling was also undertaken over a 24 hour period during significant smoke events to a gain an understanding of levels during the smoke events.

The sampling canisters are supplied and analysed by a Sydney laboratory that EPA has been using. The delay in results was due to internal processes such as obtaining canisters, shipping samples in batches having canisters, processing results and forwarding results to Department of Health. The Department of Health is providing advice on what air quality guideline to assess the 24 hour results as there is no national 24 hour air guideline.

Hope this extra information sourced from our scientists helps to answer your questions. Please feel free to contact me directly with any other concerns.

Regards,

[REDACTED]
Manager - Customer Service
Marketing & Communications

[cid:image001.gif@01CF44EA.5D419990]

EPA Victoria
200 Victoria Street, Carlton VIC 3053 | GPO Box 4395, Melbourne VIC 3001 | DX 210082

[REDACTED]
www.epa.vic.gov.au<<http://www.epa.vic.gov.au>>

22.

Justice Teague, I have the full report from HRL if you would like at later date, there are so many things that just don't add up,

Why did it take EPA so long to take first samples?

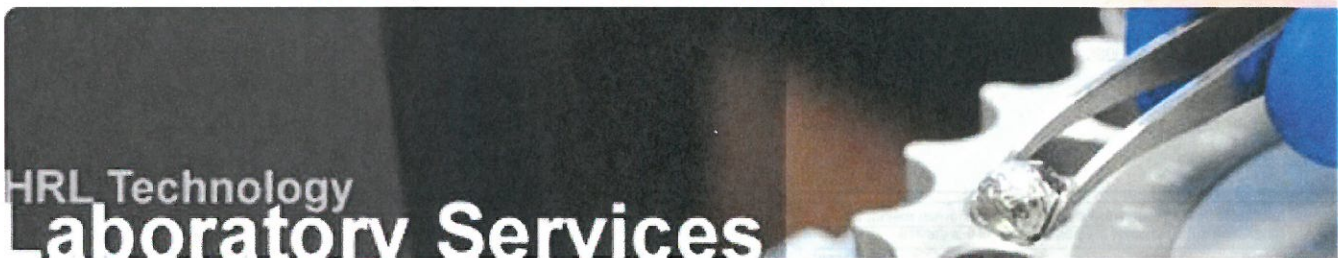
Why did it take so long for the samples to be analysed and results obtained? After firefighters wound up in hospital with carbon monoxide poisoning when Air Labs Environmental could do it in a much quicker turnaround the lives of thousands of people were at risk.

Why do the EPA say they used a Lab in Sydney, which they must have known would cause delay in results, when HRL do air testing and are located in Mulgrave

Why did EPA send samples away to labs for analysis when there are mobile units they could have employed to go out to Morwell to give more or less instant results.

Please see below the a section of the HRL website, stating they can do air testing.

Home \ SERVICES \ Laboratory services \ Environmental Analysis



Environmental Analysis

Challenge

Accurate information is critical in ensuring organisations meet the required environmental standards set by Australian State, Territory and Commonwealth government environmental legislation and regulations. Such standards apply across industry and relate to emissions to the air, water and land as well as the environment within plant.

Solution

Environmental analysis services provided by HRL Technology combine work within its modern laboratories with sophisticated on-site testing. Analysis covers testing of solids, liquids and gases in relation to:

- analysing and monitoring emissions
- assessing indoor air-quality
- identifying pollution concentrations, compositions and sources
- sampling particulates and minimising dust
- analysing and treating wastewater
- recovering energy from organic waste (including combustion, gasification and biodigestion)
- extracting waste and by-products for sale or re-use
- assessing the environmental impact of discharges to air, water or land

24.

This link

<http://www.alsglobal.com/Our-Services/Life-Sciences/Environmental/Capabilities/Australia-Capabilities>

Takes you to ASL Group Australian capabilities, here are just a few listed at that link

Air and Industrial Hygiene Parameters

- Alkanes (C1-C6)
- Anions
- BTEX & S
- Dust fall Light Gases (O2, N2, CO, CO2)
- Metals
- PAH
- Particulate
- PCB
- Dioxins/Furans Silica
- TVOC
- Volatile Organic Compounds

Im wondering if the scoresby lab can carry out this kind of testing, much closer and quicker than Sydney

After the above, I sent this to Rosa Moore EPA

From: "Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising" <phoenix_rising@bigpond.com>

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Thank you [REDACTED]

Date: Friday, 21 March 2014 7:31 PM

WHEN I GET BACK HOME FROM MOREWELL AND LOOK AT THE HOURLY AIR TESTING, AND SEE THAT ITS IN THE BLACK AND READING OF 100 FOR PM2.5 PARTICLES, I WANT TO KNOW WHAT THE BLOODY HELL THOSE PARTICLES ARE EXACTLY, AND EXACTLY WHAT THE HELL I HAVE BEEN BREATHING IN

A VERY POOR ATTITUDE AND REPLY TO MAY MANY REQUESTS.

WASTE OF TIME READING IT ACTUALLY.

I LOOK FORWARD TO PUTTING IN MY FORMAL SUBMISSION TO THE INQUIRY, WITH YOUR RESPONSE TO ME INCLUDED IN IT.

LET ME JUST ADD, A 12 MONTH AVERAGE AINT HELPING PEOPLE WHO ARE BREATHING IN PM2.5 PARTICLES IN THE BLACK ZONE AND COUNT OF 100, THEY NEED TO KNOW DAILY AT LEAST, SO DOES THE HEALTH MINISTER WHO IS USING THE INFORMATION YOU PROVIDE TO DECIDE THE SAFETY OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE.

PATHETIC,

25.

Since the fire is still not out, thought maybe apply a little pressure for transparency, people are not able to claim on insurance much as the insurers say the fire is not out, so here goes nothing

*From: "Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising" [REDACTED]
To: <corporateaffairs@gdfsuezau.com>
Cc: <russell.northe@parliament.vic.gov.au>; <Greg.Hunt.MP@aph.gov.au>
Subject: LIVE STREAMING WEB CAM
Date: Monday, 31 March 2014 10:33 PM*

Hello,

Since I have watched the Fukushima disaster from day 1 and am impressed that Tepco set up a web cam live streaming to their website for all to see 24/7

I have also watched the Morwell Mine fire disaster from day 1, listening on my scanner the day it started

I attended the community meeting on 2nd March only to suffer severe breathing problems that lasted well into the next day after only 3 hours in the Valley

I have joined the Voices of the Valley group and I am asking you to follow Tepco's example and to put a lot of peoples minds at ease, can you please set up a webcam covering the whole mine and stream it live to your website so all can view exactly what is happening, leaving nothing to guesswork.

After all, TRANSPARENCY, is the modern word.

I look forward to your reply.

*Kind Regards
Christine Hamilton*

26.

No reply to that of course, so then I send this

From: "Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising" [REDACTED]
To: <premier@dpc.vic.gov.au>
Cc: <russell.northe@parliament.vic.gov.au>; <Greg.Hunt.MP@aph.gov.au>;
<enquiries@gdfsuezau.com>; <kim.wells@parliament.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Fw: LIVE STREAMING WEB CAM
Date: Wednesday, 2 April 2014 8:09 PM

Attention:

To All that this email is addressed to, I will keep forwarding this email until I get a response, many people living in the vicinity of the Morwell Mine have expressed that they think what I have suggested in this email is a great idea, I/they deserve acknowledgement, and consideration.

I am no expert, but in the future my feeling tells me that cancer and illness rate will rise from the Mine Fire situation, I should think that everything possible would now be done to help the residents of Morwell and put their minds at ease,

Transparency is a wonderful thing, until now, the Mine/Plant have been shrouded in secrecy, why not open things up, and let the people see exactly what is happening, I feel very confident it would go a very long way to show good will and help people feel more settled and safe,

After all, if you had a dirty great coal mine 200m from your back fence, wouldn't you like to see whets going on?

Justice Teague, you know one of the most disappointing things, Russell Northe and Greg Hunt, have never replied to one of my emails, why? Cause they don't have to. Its very sad that we pay lots of people so much money to do a special job and look after and serve the people who pay them and when the chips are down well I need say no more.

27.

Oh lookout, a reply from Trevor Rowe, GDF Suez, after days of fwding same email.

From: "Rowe, Trevor" <[REDACTED]>
To: "Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising" <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: LIVE STREAMING WEB CAM
Date: Thursday, 3 April 2014 7:45 PM

Thank you for your email Christine and apologies for the delayed response - the message got to me via a rather circuitous route.

As you are no doubt aware, the Morwell mine covers a very large area, with even the current operating faces stretching around two kilometers in length. We believe it would therefore be impractical and serve no useful purpose to introduce the "live streaming" that you have suggested. As for the areas affected by the recent fire, these are now free of fire, so again live streaming would not be appropriate.

I think you would agree that this is a very different situation to the one to which you refer in your email.

Thank you again for your email and I will ensure it is passed to relevant Hazelwood management.

Regards
Trevor Rowe
Corporate Affairs

28.

My reply to Trevor Rowe regarding streaming webcam

*From: "Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising" [REDACTED]
To: "Rowe, Trevor" <trevor.rowe@gdfsuezau.com>
Cc: <russell.northe@parliament.vic.gov.au>; <Greg.Hunt.MP@aph.gov.au>;
<kim.wells@parliament.vic.gov.au>; <premier@dpc.vic.gov.au>;
<tanya.plibersek.mp@aph.gov.au>
Subject: Re: LIVE STREAMING WEB CAM
Date: Friday, 4 April 2014 10:08 PM*

Hello Trevor,

Thank you for your reply.

After receiving your reply to my email, I have consulted with local residents, who say there are still low levels of smoke and ash is continuing to invade their homes and lives,

In view of this mornings FLASHOVER, episode, and the very aged infrastructure of the mine and power plant, the people would feel much more secure if they could see for themselves what is happening 24/7

The residents have been subjected to very difficult, worrying, stressful period of time, and this morning's episode has heightened those feelings.

I would think that GDF Suez would be doing everything within their power to assist the local residents feel at ease and at a very small cost to set up.

It is quite a simple process to install a pan/zoom camera to stream to your website, which can cover the whole mine.

Please look at this link, it gives you an idea of the pan and zoom controls for the viewer

<http://www6.kaiho.mlit.go.jp/nagoyako/jh/jh33/jh33.htm>

Transparency is the only way to make the public feel that things are as they should be.

I look forward to your reply.

*Kind Regards
Christine Hamilton.*

Of course to date 30/4/14 I have heard nothing back from Trevor Rowe regarding this

29.

I did receive this though, emailed, date which they don't bother to put on letters anymore it seems was 15th April 2014, and to date 30th April 2014, of course Russell Northe has not contacted me, even though I also have left a message with his secretary regarding Old Faithful and hotspots in the Mine.



**Parliamentary Secretary
to the Premier of Victoria**

Level 1
1 Treasury Place
Melbourne Victoria 3002
GPO Box 4912
Melbourne Victoria 3001
Telephone: +61 3 9651 5000
Facsimile: +61 3 9651 5054
DX210753

MCPI4/2948

Ms Christine Hamilton
[REDACTED]

Dear Ms Hamilton

Thank you for taking the time to write to the Premier of Victoria.

Your correspondence has been referred to the Minister for Energy and Resources, the Hon Russell Northe MP, for a direct response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Craig Ondarchie'.

Craig Ondarchie MP
Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier

30.

From: "Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising" [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] <dp&c@dpc.vic.gov.au>; "Rowe, Trevor"
[REDACTED] <Greg.Hunt.MP@aph.gov.au>;
<tanya.plibersek.mp@aph.gov.au>; <russell.northe@parliament.vic.gov.au>
Subject: morwell mine fire/morwell mine/hazelwood
Date: Tuesday, 15 April 2014 3:33 PM

Hello [REDACTED]

I have been checking the EPA website for latest alerts on Hazelwood mine fire, and the latest I can find is 18th March 2014, given that today is 15th April, I must have overlooked the latest updates, can you please point me in the right direction;

Or can you confirm that the mine fire is now OUT COMPLETELY?

The GDF Suez latest update does not really state if the fire is out or not, and the CFA website now not listing anything,

Lots of people are still reporting a slight smoke haze,

Also Rosa, I have been asking GDF Suez if they would kindly set up a streaming web cam in the mine, and stream to their website so that local residents can see exactly what is happening for themselves 24/7, as you would be aware, Tepco have done this at Fukushima, and it has helped to ease anxiety slightly for the locals there.

In view of the FLASHOVER, at Hazelwood and the events since 9th January, it might also be in the interest of the EPA to have such available visual streaming of the mine to help you do your job also, so maybe you would like to help with this, It would not be hard or expensive but I would think anything to help make people feel safe and secure in their own town is a good thing, and transparency goes a long long way in achieving that.

There is just one more thing that you may be able to help me with, I am having awful trouble trying to figure out, the sulphur dioxide quantities that had been recorded in the hourly air reports for Morwell when the mine fire was at its worst. Considering im looking at a report now from Suez which states 12 million kg of sulphur dioxide discharged annually give or take a million, I am at a loss to figure out when there is also a very large coal mine fire burning that the hourly air reports from EPA were quite often ZERO for Sulphur Dioxide, surely that must be impossible?

Oh sorry just one more thing, can you please explain why "Sulphur Dioxide" was dropped from the table/chart completely for the hourly air reporting for Latrobe Valley, Morwell South, Morwell East and Traralgon. That has me quite puzzled, I noticed it dropped from the chart quite a while ago.

Thanks [REDACTED]

I look forward to your reply.

Kind Regards
Christine Hamilton.

From: Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising
Date: Tuesday, 15 April 2014 3:58 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Shan.Blethyn@parliament.vic.gov.au; dp&c@dpc.vic.gov.au; Rowe, Trevor; Greg.Hunt.MP@aph.gov.au; tanya.plibersek.mp@aph.gov.au; russell.northe@parliament.vic.gov.au
Subject: ppm or ppb

Hi again [REDACTED]

Sorry bit more help needed here

So here is the chart from your website explaining about sulphur dioxide in the air explaining it is measure by PPM parts per million

Air

Home > Your environment > Air > Air pollution > Sulfur dioxide in air

↓ Air

Future air quality in Victoria

2013 Senate Committee inquiry

National Plan for Clean Air

Air pollution

- › Carbon monoxide in air
- › Oxides of nitrogen in air
- › Ozone in air
- › Particles in air
- ▼ Sulfur dioxide in air
- › Other air toxins

Protecting Victoria's air

Air quality in the home

Sulfur dioxide in air

Sulfur dioxide is an irritant gas that attacks the throat and lungs. Its effect on health is increased by the presence of airborne particles. Prolonged exposure to sulfur dioxide can lead to increases in respiratory illnesses like chronic bronchitis.

Sources of sulfur dioxide

The main sources of sulfur dioxide are coal-fired power stations, smelting of aluminium and other metals, and exhaust from diesel vehicles.

Current standards for sulfur dioxide

The current one-hour, 24-hour and one-year standards for sulfur dioxide are 0.20 ppm (parts per million), 0.08 ppm and 0.02 ppm respectively.

Goal for sulfur dioxide

The one-hour and 24-hour standards should not be exceeded on more than one day per year. The one-year standard should not be exceeded.

Note: my comment at top, "here is the chart for Victoria showing sulphur dioxide in PPB Parts per billion?"

From: Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising
Date: Tuesday, 15 April 2014 3:58 PM
To: Rosa Moore
Cc: Shan.Blethyn@parliament.vic.gov.au; dp&c@dpc.vic.gov.au; Rowe, Trevor; Greg.Hunt.MP@aph.gov.au; tanya.pibersek.mp@aph.gov.au; russell.northe@parliament.vic.gov.au
Subject: ppm or ppb

here is the chart for victoria, showing sulphur dioxide measured in PPB, parts per billion

Please note: EPA is currently preparing to upgrade the servers that support the air monitoring system. This may result in slight delays to the updating of the air quality statistics in the period up to and including Thursday 3 April. This delay will only affect the display of relevant statistics. It will not affect long-term availability of the information.

EPA air quality hourly update: April 15, 2014 2.00 pm - 3.00 pm

Please note that current data may not be shown for some air quality monitoring stations. Measurements are made continuously at air monitoring stations, but there may be temporary technical issues with the collection and display of data.

Hour: [current](#) | [next](#) | [previous](#) | [choose...](#) Show: [data readings](#) | [index values](#)

		Data readings						Air quality index		
Region	Station	Carbon Monoxide	Ozone	Nitrogen Dioxide	Sulfur Dioxide	Particles as PM2.5	Particles as PM10	Visibility Reduction	AOI	Summary
		Units	ppm	ppb	ppb	ug/m3	ug/m3	none		
EAST	Alphington	0.3	19	6	4	3.6	9.2	0.16	19	VERY GOOD
	Box Hill	0.1	8	6	5		9.7	0.35	15	VERY GOOD
	Brighton		24	3			14.1	0.33	24	VERY GOOD
	Dandenong		16	11			53.1	0.47	66	GOOD
	Mooroolbark	0.3	23	2			6.9	0.34	23	VERY GOOD
WEST	Altona North		27	2	0					N/A
	Brooklyn						12.8	0.38	16	VERY GOOD
	Deer Park		28	4			15.5	0.33	28	VERY GOOD
	Footscray	0.3					13.5	0.33	17	VERY GOOD
	Melton		14							N/A

33.

From: "Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising" <phoenix_rising@bigpond.com>
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] <dp&c@dpc.vic.gov.au>; "Rowe, Trevor"
[REDACTED] <Greg.Hunt.MP@aph.gov.au>;
<tanya.plibersek.mp@aph.gov.au>; <russell.northe@parliament.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Fw: morwell mine fire/morwell mine/hazelwood
Date: Wednesday, 16 April 2014 8:18 PM

Hello, Is there Anybody out there?

Is there no-one on the recipient list here that can tell me if the fire in the Morwell Mine is GOING or NOT GOING, and OUT?

"A little bit going" "Safe" "Completely Out" ?

----- Original Message -----

From: Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] dp&c@dpc.vic.gov.au ; Rowe, Trevor ;
Greg.Hunt.MP@aph.gov.au ; tanya.plibersek.mp@aph.gov.au ;
russell.northe@parliament.vic.gov.au
Sent: Tuesday, April 15, 2014 3:33 PM
Subject: morwell mine fire/morwell mine/hazelwood

Hello [REDACTED],

I have been checking the EPA website for latest alerts on Hazelwood mine fire, and the latest I can find is 18th March 2014, given that today is 15th April, I must have overlooked the latest updates, can you please point me in the right direction;

Or can you confirm that the mine fire is now OUT COMPLETELY?

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Lots of people are still reporting a slight smoke haze,

Also Rosa, I have been asking GDF Suez if they would kindly set up a streaming web cam in the mine, and stream to their website so that local residents can see exactly what is happening for themselves 24/7, as you would be aware, Tepco have done this at Fukushima, and it has helped to ease anxiety slightly for the locals there.

In view of the FLASHOVER, at Hazelwood and the events since 9th January, it might also be in the interest of the EPA to have such available visual streaming of the mine to help you do your job also, so maybe you would like to help with this, It would not be hard or expensive but I would think anything to help make people feel safe and secure in their own town is a good thing, and transparency goes a long long way in achieving that.

There is just one more thing that you may be able to help me with, I am having awful trouble trying to figure out, the sulphur dioxide quantities that had been recorded in the hourly air reports for

34.

Morwell when the mine fire was at its worst. Considering im looking at a report now from Suez which states 12 million kg of sulphur dioxide discharged annually give or take a million, I am at a loss to figure out when there is also a very large coal mine fire burning that the hourly air reports from EPA were quite often ZERO for Sulphur Dioxide, surely that must be impossible?

Oh sorry just one more thing, can you please explain why "Sulphur Dioxide" was dropped from the table/chart completely for the hourly air reporting for Latrobe Valley, Morwell South, Morwell East and Traralgon. That has me quite puzzled, I noticed it dropped from the chart quite a while ago.

Thanks [REDACTED]

I look forward to your reply.

*Kind Regards
Christine Hamilton.*

Just ignore us, and we will give up? I think so

*From: "Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising" [REDACTED]
To: "contact" <contact@epa.vic.gov.au> [REDACTED]
Subject: epa hourly air quality reporting
Date: Wednesday, 16 April 2014 10:20 PM*

Hello,

Can you please point me in the right direction for air monitoring results for Morwell East and Morwell South pre 16 February 2014 as I cant seem to find any, all I can find is OFFLINE, I have gone back to 1996 on your hourly air quality testing tables.

*And even the epa annual report for 2012 shows strangely nothing for Latrobe Valley?
and the 2013 annual report is non specific to area.*

I would like to see some actual numbers from actual testing for the Morwell East and Morwell South areas.

I look forward to a prompt reply

*Thank you.
Christine Hamilton*

Air monitoring report 2012

- Compliance with the National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure

Ozone

Table 8: 2012 compliance summary for ozone in Victoria

AAO NEPM standards: 0.10 ppm (one-hour average); 0.08 ppm (four-hour average)
AAO NEPM goal: standards exceeded on no more than one day per year

Region Performance monitoring station	Data availability rates (% of hours)					Number of exceedances (days)		Performance against the standards and goal	
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual	1-hour	4-hour	1-hour	4-hour
Port Phillip									
Alphington	62.0	66.5	2.4	0.0	32.6	0	0	ND	ND
Brighton	93.7	94.8	94.7	95.2	94.6	0	0	met	met
Dandenong	95.1	91.8	94.6	95.2	94.2	0	0	met	met
Footscray	94.8	63.5	94.2	57.8	77.6	0	0	ND	ND
Geelong South	94.7	94.3	93.0	94.3	94.1	0	0	met	met
Melton	87.2	95.2	93.1	92.9	92.1	0	0	met	met
Mooroolbark	94.6	94.7	94.7	95.0	94.8	0	0	met	met
Point Cook	94.8	92.5	93.7	94.3	93.8	0	0	met	met
Latrobe Valley									
Traralgon	95.0	95.3	95.3	95.3	95.2	0	0	met	met

ND: Not demonstrated by monitoring. See comments below.

Regions that do not require monitoring on the basis that screening shows pollutant levels are reasonably expected to be consistently below the relevant AAQ NEPM standards are Shepparton, Warrnambool, Wodonga and Mildura.

Compliance was not demonstrated (ND) at Alphington (Q1, Q2, Q3 and Q4) and Footscray (Q4) due to technical problems with equipment.

At all other stations operating during 2012, the one and four-hour ozone standards were not exceeded and compliance was demonstrated.

Justice Teague, I really don't understand how they can do this sort of thing and get away with it, nothing recorded for Latrobe Valley

36

By the way, I have omitted quite a few emails, fwd fwd fwd of same thing, as is so long this submission, I just really am trying to demonstrate the lengths one has to go to, to get a reply from anyone

From: [REDACTED]
To: "'Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising'" [REDACTED]
Cc: <Shan.Blethyn@parliament.vic.gov.au>; <dp&c@dpc.vic.gov.au>; "Rowe, Trevor" <trevor.rowe@gdfsuezau.com>; <Greg.Hunt.MP@aph.gov.au>; <tanya.plibersek.mp@aph.gov.au>; <russell.northe@parliament.vic.gov.au>
Subject: RE: morwell mine fire/morwell mine/hazelwood
Date: Thursday, 17 April 2014 10:36 AM

Dear Christine,

I have tried to answer your questions as you have listed them in your initial e-mail.

The summary graphs and tables have just been updated, and will be on the web site within a few days. These summaries were not constantly updated, but the hourly real time data was updated, and is able to be viewed for any particular period by selecting the web site option "choose".

The EPA does not have any extra direct information on the state of the fire other than what comes from CFA. We are aware that there is still some haziness around the area at times, associated with emissions from the mine area. However the air quality monitoring shows almost no impact from these emissions, even at the Morwell South site that is very close to the mine. This does give EPA some indication that although haziness is still being noticed, it is unlikely to be producing any adverse effects on people.

Streaming web cam, this is a good suggestion, and the EPA would certainly value access to such video information. One of our learning's from this event is to try and do things better in any future type of event, and your suggestion is now on our list.

Initially the EPA was also concerned with SO₂. As you note this is potentially a large source and we expected to see elevated SO₂ levels in the community. The monitoring showed that this did not occur. Even the peak SO₂ (12 ppb on 25 February) was well below the 1-hour standard (120 ppb). Indeed the monitoring through this period showed higher impact from SO₂ releases from the power stations than the fire (i.e. elevated SO₂ at times when the wind direction was not coming from the fire zone). This occurred on several occasions - and is still noticeable well after the fire. The reasons why there was not more SO₂ experienced during the fire is not clear. Some of our scientists have speculated different reasons, including (1) that there was not enough coal burning (we do not have an estimate on the tonnage of coal burnt from the mine), (2) that the coal had a low sulphur content (it is known that this is not particularly high), and (3) that the extensive use of water for dousing the fire caused the SO₂ to be captured and dispersed in the aqueous phase. We will not know this until further longer-term studies are made.

Our apologies. SO₂ was removed from the "Latrobe" part of the web site - for purely practical reasons that it took up space and was not showing anything very useful. The SO₂ results were kept on the main web page, along with all the EPA's other sites (at <http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/our-work/monitoring-the-environment/air-quality-bulletins/hourly-air-quality-data-table>) throughout the entire period, as per normal.

37.

I hope these have covered your questions in full.

Regards,

[REDACTED]
Manager - Customer Service
Marketing & Communications

AMENDMENT IT SEEMS

From: [REDACTED]
To: "'Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising'" [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]; <dp&c@dpc.vic.gov.au>; "Rowe, Trevor"
[REDACTED]; <Greg.Hunt.MP@aph.gov.au>;
<tanya.plibersek.mp@aph.gov.au>; <russell.northe@parliament.vic.gov.au>
Subject: RE: ppm or ppb
Date: Thursday, 17 April 2014 10:45 AM

Dear Christine,

There is a correction in my previous e-mail and I apologise for mixing my standard measurements. Even the peak SO₂ (12 ppb on 25 February) was well below the 1-hour standard (120 ppb). Should read Even the peak SO₂ (12 ppb on 25 February) was well below the 24-hour standard (80 ppb). I hope doesn't cause confusion, I caught the error as I sent it.

There are two parts to the this answer for this e-mail.

PART 1. ppm and ppb. You are right that on one part of the EPA web site we use ppm, and in the air quality tables we use ppb. The standard is expressed in ppm - so this is just duplicated from the SEPP legislation. The 24-hour SO₂ limit is 0.08 ppm. However typical measurements are much lower than this, so in the table we publish it as ppb. Using parts per billion rather than parts per million just allows us to print values of say 8 ppb, rather than 0.008 ppm. They are equivalent. In addition the instruments give their outputs in ppb, and for much of the time this is very low. The standard (being 0.08 ppm or 80 ppb) has not been exceeded anywhere in Victoria for several years.

PART 2. Initially the EPA was concerned with SO₂. As you note this is potentially a large source and we expected to see elevated SO₂ levels in the community. The monitoring showed that this did not occur. Even the peak SO₂ (12 ppb on 25 February) was well below the 24-hour standard (80 ppb). Indeed the monitoring through this period showed higher impact from SO₂ releases from the power stations than the fire (i.e. elevated SO₂ at times when the wind direction was not coming from the fire zone). This occurred on several occasions - and is still noticeable well after the fire. The reasons why there was not more SO₂ experienced during the fire is not clear. Some of our scientists have speculated different reasons, including (1) that there was not enough coal burning, (2) that the coal had a low sulphur content (it is known that this is not particularly high), and (3) that the extensive use of water for dousing the fire caused the SO₂ to be captured and dispersed in the aqueous phase. We will not fully understand this until further longer-term studies are made.

You have indicated that the fire at its peak was burning 1380 kg/hr of coal, which sounds like a lot. However just note that the coal usage by the power stations in the Valley is huge. For instance Loy Yang A and B use 4,000 tones/hr - or approximately 280 times the rate at the mine fire (see the AGL web site www.agl.com.au/about-agl/). So in the overall context, the amount of SO₂ generated by the fire was just a tiny fraction of the total being emitted

38.

around the region. Admittedly the fire emissions might be expected to have a bigger effects since they are emitted at the surface, whereas the power stations' are from tall stacks. But an opposing factor was also at work, with the mine's emissions occurring over an area of a square kilometer or so, allowing for much better mixing and dispersion. Some quick and simple calculations using these figures shows that the measured concentrations are not unreasonable.

Regards,

Regards,

[REDACTED]
Manager - Customer Service
Marketing & Communications

My reply to [REDACTED]

From: "Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising" <[REDACTED]>
To: "Rosa Moore" <Rosa.Moore@epa.vic.gov.au>
Cc: [REDACTED]; <dp&c@dpc.vic.gov.au>; "Rowe, Trevor"
<[REDACTED]>; <Greg.Hunt.MP@aph.gov.au>;
<tanya.plibersek.mp@aph.gov.au>; <russell.northe@parliament.vic.gov.au>
Subject: 1380kg/hour
Date: Thursday, 17 April 2014 7:42 PM

Hello Rosa,

Thank you for your detailed responses Rosa, I appreciate the time you have taken to reply in such lengthy comprehensive and prompt fashion.

Just one problem, when I was explaining the 1380kg/hour, of SO2 discharged into the air, that was hourly from hazelwood power plant alone, not the mine fire added onto that. 12 million kgs of SO2 annually is discharged from the chimneys from Hazelwood, breaks down into 1380 kg/hour into the air, plus a large coal mine fire burning, just doesn't seem to be possible to add up to zero sulphur dioxide reading as was quite often reported in the hourly air quality reports for Morwell East and Morwell South post 15th February 2014, as I'm still unable to find anything other than offline for Morwell East and Morwell South previous to 16th February 2014.

Thank you [REDACTED]

Again, I look forward to your reply

Kind Regards
Christine Hamilton

39.

From: "Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising" [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: epa hourly air quality reporting
Date: Thursday, 17 April 2014 7:37 PM

----- Original Message -----

From: Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising
To: contact
Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2014 10:20 PM
Subject: epa hourly air quality reporting

Hello [REDACTED]

Can you please point me in the right direction for air monitoring results for Morwell East and Morwell South pre 16 February 2014 as I cant seem to find any, all I can find is OFFLINE, I have gone back to 1996 on your hourly air quality testing tables.

And even the epa annual report for 2012 shows strangely nothing for Latrobe Valley?
and the 2013 annual report is non specific to area.

I would like to see some actual numbers from actual testing for the Morwell East and Morwell South areas.

I look forward to a prompt reply

Thank you.
Christine Hamilton

From: "Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising" [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: community monitoring
Date: Saturday, 19 April 2014 9:08 PM

40.

Hi Rosa,

This image taken yesterday in the morning, Morwell, very Smokey around the mine.

The Community would like to start to do their own independent air testing, would like to set up one or two stations, just to put everyone's mind at ease.

I was wondering if you may be able to help out with some monitoring equipment.

Or at the very least please advise makes and models of the equipment epa uses so that our results will be acceptable as evidence.

Thank you

Kind Regards
Christine Hamilton

An email to Darren Chester, to date no reply

*From: "Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising" [REDACTED]
To: <darren.chester.mp@aph.gov.au>
Subject: Morwell Open Cut Mine
Date: Monday, 21 April 2014 8:54 PM*

Hello Mr Chester,

I hope this finds you well.

I live in Dromana, I am lucky to have fresh air, I came to Morwell 2nd March for the community meeting, 6 car loads of us, my children and their mates, all early 20s, we brought appropriate masks but didn't wear them as the smoke did not seem too bad that day.

We were in Morwell for approx 3 hours. Upon driving home, my nose started burning, eyes burning, wheezing and persistent cough right into the next afternoon. That night I looked at the EPA website to look for air quality report to see what I had been breathing in, no VOC analysis, only broad PM 2.5 particles, didn't tell me anything, and so the saga began.

My reason for sending this message; I have been sending email after email to the relevant ministers and Trevor Rowe/GDF Suez asking for a camera to be set up looking over the mine, so that anyone 24/7 can see for themselves what is happening. I have been ignored, except for Trevor Rowe replying once saying he didn't think it was possible or necessary.

Well it is possible, an easy inexpensive task, could be streamed to the Suez website or to somewhere like USTREAM TV. Im sure it would go a long way to putting peoples mind at ease, in view of the Flashover recently, also, people are feeling very very anxious about whats going to happen next. Tepco at Fukushima have had to set up a camera <http://www.tepco.co.jp/en/nu/f1-np/camera/index-e.html>. So Im asking you please please think about this, transparency is a wonderful thing, and we all deserve it.

41.

What people in the Valley have been through and are still suffering, should not be this way and a bit of help from you would be so appreciated I can't explain how much. I leave this with you, but just want to explain, it's not a much more difficult task to set up a camera, where the controls for panning and zooming can be used by the person viewing, to look around the mine, that would be perfect.

I suggested this to the EPA in one of my many emails, and they agreed, having a streaming camera set up would also be of benefit to them and help them do their job.

I look forward to a reply

*Kind Regards
Christine Hamilton.*

To date you guessed it, no reply from Darren Chester

**Received this UNSIGNED letter, with no date via email on 24th April 2014
And still not to date has Russell Northe contacted me**

Department of State Development,
Business and Innovation

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Melbourne Victoria 3000
Australia
GPO Box 4509
Melbourne Victoria 3001
Australia
Telephone (03) 9651 9999
Facsimile (03) 9651 9770
www.dsd.vic.gov.au
DN210074

Ref: RN335938

Ms Christine Hamilton
[REDACTED]

Dear Ms Hamilton

MORWELL MINE FIRE

Thank you for your correspondence of 3 April 2014 to the Hon Denis Napthine MP, Premier of Victoria, regarding the above matter. Your query was referred to the Hon Russell Northe MP in his capacity as Minister for Energy and Resources.

The Minister is currently receiving advice from the Department of State Development, Business and Innovation on the issues raised in your correspondence. A reply will be sent once the advice is received and considered.

In the interim, information on energy and resources matters is available at www.energyandresources.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

42.

From: [REDACTED]
To: "'Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising'" [REDACTED]
Cc: <dp&c@dpc.vic.gov.au>; [REDACTED]
<Greg.Hunt.MP@aph.gov.au>; <tanya.plibersek.mp@aph.gov.au>;
<russell.northe@parliament.vic.gov.au>; <kim.wells@parliament.vic.gov.au>
Subject: RE: 1380kg/hour
Date: Thursday, 24 April 2014 4:45 PM

Hi Christine,

Apologies for the delay, but your questions did raise some issues that our scientists felt needed a closer look. This response should answer questions raised here and on a subsequent e-mail also on the 17/04/2014 relating to EPA hourly Air quality reporting.

Attached are two of relevant EPA Publications you asked for, as well as a further piece of analysis on sulphur dioxide. These are quite detailed and in parts technical, but I hope they go some way to answering your questions. And thanks for sending your photo of residual smoke in the mine - our scientists found this very useful.

[REDACTED]
Program Leader - Customer Support
Marketing & Communications

The reports were not really technical etc see my response

From: "Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising" [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Cc: <dp&c@dpc.vic.gov.au>; <russell.northe@parliament.vic.gov.au>;
<kim.wells@parliament.vic.gov.au>; <tanya.plibersek.mp@aph.gov.au>;
<Greg.Hunt.MP@aph.gov.au>
Subject: thank you for the reports rosa
Date: Friday, 25 April 2014 3:21 PM

Hi Rosa,

Thanks for that.

I actually was asking why back to 1996 it seems that the hourly air reports/stations for morwell east and morwell south are OFFLINE.

Thank you for the reports you have included but I was asking for raw monitoring data for Morwell East and Morwell South for sulphur dioxide in particular and pm2.5 particles. which I would still like to obtain please for say the last couple of years if possible. Its vital information for my submission to the Inquiry.

The reports you have included are a bit like getting an estimated electricity bill, no actual data.and are not of any real substance.

43.

Excerpts from the reports

Figure 5: Daily average PM2.5 6 February 2012 to 26 May 2013. Note: Traralgon PM2.5 data is estimated not measured

Although the Traralgon monitoring station did not directly monitor PM2.5 concentrations, an estimate of PM2.5 levels was made based on visibility reduction readings taken at the site.

As shown in Figure 5, the daily estimated PM2.5 readings at the Traralgon site were generally below the daily average standard. However, this limit was exceeded for seven days due to bushfire smoke impacts in the area (21 January 2013) and smoke from planned burning (1, 9 to 12 May, and 21 to 22 May 2013).

The average concentration of PM2.5 for Morwell East and Traralgon was 7.8 µg/m³ and 7.4 µg/m³ respectively, below the 8 µg/m³ annual reporting standard.

Measured and estimated small particles (PM10 and PM2.5) levels were generally below ambient air quality objective or reporting standard except for four to seven days of the 15 months of air monitoring.

Very nice graphs but only averages of amounts and estimates

Could you please just send me the actual monitored reads from the Morwell South and Morwell East monitoring stations if at any time they were ONLINE, thanks.

Kind Regards
Christine.

AND

From: "Terry & Christine Phoenix Risina" [REDACTED]

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: <dp&c@dpc.vic.gov.au>; <Greg.Hunt.MP@aph.gov.au>; <tanya.plibersek.mp@aph.gov.au>; <russell.northe@parliament.vic.gov.au>; <kim.wells@parliament.vic.gov.au>

Subject: Word document you provided Why was the SO2 monitored at Morwell lower than might be expected?

Date: Friday, 25 April 2014 8:36 PM

Hello [REDACTED]

I just got time to read the Word Document you sent me, Why was the SO2 Monitored at Morwell lower than might be expected?

44.

Until you are able to provide raw data, from actual monitoring stations in Morwell East and Morwell South, I may think that it was lower than expected as it was not monitored and offline and estimations were done..

The fact that annual reports from GDF Suez themselves give us figures like 12,000,000 kg of sulphur dioxide coming out of Hazelwood alone, suggests to me, that alone would give higher than average sulphur dioxide readings, considering how close Morwell is to the power station.

Please do not send any more softened, pretty graphs or charts, estimations or averages,

Please provide me with some raw actual read data that the reports and statements are based on as this is for a Judicial Inquiry, it needs to be fact.

Also the other thing that does not add up;

The readings for PM2.5 particles were so high, but all individual concentrations of anything alarming were so low, well below the acceptable level what was the PM2.5 mostly made up of?

EXCERPTS FROM *Why was the SO2 Monitored at Morwell lower than might be expected?*

I find the below statements rather alarming in themselves, since you have not provided any actual data readings from monitoring stations in Morwell East or Morwell South and I found words like estimated, and average in the 2012 - 2013 reports, I am wondering how these conclusions can be drawn?

Background

*The monitored concentrations of particles and CO at Morwell during the fire incident were at times very high. Given the source, we might have expected concentrations of SO2 (and others) to also have been high - **but they were not**. The peak 1-hour concentrations of SO2 were around 70 ppb, well below the standard, whereas PM and CO were well above. Why would this occur?*

*Highlighted in red, **BUT THEY WERE NOT**, it's the actual readings, raw data, which proves this, that I would like please.*

Answer

The reason is basically that the Hazelwood mine coal has a very low sulphur content, and that despite the amount of smoke and CO produced, the total volume of coal that burnt was not great.

The monitoring results from during the fire and from times previous to the fire are consistent with this. An analysis has been conducted to show this quantitatively and this is attached as an Appendix.

The last sentence highlighted in red, is what I am after, the actual monitoring results from during the fire and from times previous to the fire

APPENDIX

Causes

It has been postulated (to assume or claim as true, estimate, assume something and present it as fact) that some mechanisms occurred to suppress the SO₂ emissions - such as the type of fire, or the use of water that might absorb SO₂ gas. It is also suggested that the sulphur content of the mine coal was very low.

This is investigated further here.

Although we do have a good idea of the composition of the coal, there is no real information on the amounts burnt during the fire. However we can use the well published emission factors for coal. The source of these data are the "National Pollutant Inventory". We have to be a little careful about being too precise, because all of these emissions factors have a range, but the analysis below is a reasonable estimate and likely to be within a factor of 2 or so of the actual case.

Although we do have a good idea of the composition of the coal ? **WE SHOULD KNOW WHAT IS IN THE AIR BECAUSE OF ACTUAL REAL AIR MONITORING DATA** we should not be left guessing about what the coal composition is then guessing from that guess what could be in the air that we are breathing?

All of that above statement should not exist, it is basically telling us, everything we have based anything is educated guesswork, when in reality everything should be based on actual raw data air quality reads from approved equipment.

Thank you [REDACTED]

I look forward to your reply

Kind Regards

Christine Hamilton

Well Justice Teague, to date that's it, all the correspondence I have omitting the fwd ones that are same as what you see, I am still waiting for them to check with their scientists about the sulphur levels.

My hunch is telling me, there is something about sulphur dioxide that no-one wants anyone to know, and im guessing it's a lot higher than anyone would ever admit.

I actually overlooked the fact that the 12 million kg from the GDF Suez report was for a 3 year period, so the calculations for hourly emissions from hazelwood power plant are 1380 divided by 3, so about 468kg per hour, that is still an awful lot, plus a coal mine fire burning, cannot give zero sulphur dioxide readings, [REDACTED] verified that to me.

OLD FAITHFUL & HOTSPOTS in the Morwell Open Cut Mine

I wonder how it is, that there can be an underground coal fire burning from what I can gather now since the 1970s and no-one was really aware of this until we were told approximately 19th March and the next day it was going to be uncapped and then never heard another thing. So the facebook comment from CFA said a risk assessment was being done, where are the results from that I wonder?

On Thursday 24th April made a lot of phone calls, (over an hour to finally speak to the Chief Mine Inspector) to government departments to try to find out who is responsible for monitoring the hot spots remaining in the Morwell Mine and ask what the situation is now, are they getting smaller, are they getting bigger, are they out, since apparently that day GDF Suez had said the hotspots were still remaining and insurance companies are still not paying on the grounds the fire is not out completely and want to wait before they process any claims.

A lot of phone calls is an understatement. Either no-one wanted to tell me, or govt depts have become so complex or merged that no-one knows which dept does what anymore. Finally I called the State Emergency Control centre manager, who then got the Chief Mine Inspector John Mitas to call me back. I asked him about his job thinking he would INSPECT the mine. From what I could gather from what he told me, he does not actually inspect the mine, he has a monthly meeting with GDF Suez and they update him with information. I explained to him that the town's people would like to know specifics about the hotspots and Old Faithful, by whoever it is from our Authorities who watch the company who is doing the self monitoring. I explained that people are still sick, frightened, stressed and need proper answers, he told me he would speak with GDF Suez and explain that to them.

This was the response from CFA on Facebook to [REDACTED] (coal mine fire fighter from Texas USA) question on facebook about Old Faithful 20th March 2014

[REDACTED] Is there any new information about the uncapping of Old Faithful

CFA:

The 'Old Faithful' fire does not currently pose any risk to the community or surrounding infrastructure, however, fire services are taking the opportunity to assess the fire, which has been smouldering in an un-used section of the mine for several years. This is likely to be a slow process as crews carefully assess the situation.

Preliminary work will occur on 'Old Faithful' today in order to carry out a risk assessment.

The Fire Services Commissioner intends to contact you later.

[REDACTED]

So clearly it is the case that Old Faithful has been smouldering in the mine for several years, from what I have learned so far on this subject, especially on hot days, far more precaution and caution for fire should have been in place in this mine, and everyone should have been aware of this existing underground fire from the beginning of its time.

My feelings about this, any underground coal fire presents a threat to the community because of the toxins, microbes and deadly bacteria it can be releasing 24/7.

47.

In fact, I believe it is quite a possibility, through intuition, which has been proven by our scientific researcher on a couple of occasions now to be right, I BELIEVE THAT THE MINE/COAL/GAS/OLD FAITHFUL/HOTROCK 500m underground/ caused the bushfires surrounding the Morwell Mine, not the other way round,. I believe pressure under the mine/ground, could have created tiny little volcanoes around the mine, as the bushfires started more or less simultaneously, these tiny volcanoes caused by the build up of gases, exploded and released the gases puff, puff, puff and it ignited and caused the bushfires. I have discussed this theory with [REDACTED], and he says quite often that is exactly what happens.



How can it be, that an underground coal fire has been burning in that mine, probably since the 1977 fire and the people who should have known about it haven't?

Justice Teague, I am begging you now, can you please take a personal interest in this issue and after the Inquiry is finished somehow carry on and help us make changes to legislation, law or whatever it takes to be able to stop this sort of thing happening in Australia, forever people in this country have been made sick from mining, looking at the already approved mining leases and the projected mining for the future, most of Australia is going to be some sort of mine, a lot of uranium which means, breathing Radon Gas not just toxins from coal.

This beautiful country of ours is just going to be a pile of overburden, pondage full of blue green algae and polluted air, soil, and water if we don't do something now to change the way things are headed, you have the expertise and knowledge to be able to do something, I promise, absolutely 100% that I would donate every possible spare bit of my time to help in any way I could, I love this country, and the people and I so do not want to see it destroyed.

Im not against mining, or industry, but there has to be transparency, fairness, duty of care and people have to come before money, things have to be cleaned up, some sort of balance, the scales are so far tipped to one side at the moment, I want to cry.

48.

I know that others will include the documents showing non compliance for all sorts of things by Hazelwood Power Plant and the Mine, so I haven't included those.

I am starting to wonder why we have an EPA at all.

I hope that one of the recommendations you will make is more stringent testing, do away with self monitoring by companies, and give someone the power to hold companies and ministers accountable and if there is non-compliance places are shut down until they can comply properly.

Now I will ask you to please go to Facebook, the group is called Voices of the Valley, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/432246826910053/> by reading through that, it is a complete diary from a few days after the fire started, it shows fully the emotional toll, health impacts, clean up issues, arguments between people highlighting the stress people have been under.

I read a post of a mother, feeling so bad that she couldn't get her children out of the town that she just wished she wouldn't wake up in the morning. I have read many distressed posts of people feeling trapped and sick and no way out.

I think it has come to the point where someone needs to decide, is the Latrobe Valley really a safe place for people to live, is it sensible to have towns there at all? If the decision is yes, then it needs to be cleaned up, laws made, regulations tightened and enforced, if not, then somehow someone needs to help with getting everyone out.

If there are as many cover-ups as it seems, then really, technically, is that murder on a grand scale? To hide the truth about air, soil, water, quality, asbestos, if its making people sick and killing them, with intent to hide the truth, ?????

Just to finish off, here is a letter from the Chief Fire Services Commissioner to our friend [REDACTED] [REDACTED] thanking him for his advice and support.

[REDACTED] has advised us on many many occasions, **it is not ok to have coal fires burning underground and people living nearby**, it grows bacteria and microbes, as well as letting off gases and carcinogens, in fact Mark is far more concerned with these bacteria and microbes than the toxins

[REDACTED] actually invented the CAFs Compressed Air Foam system for firefighting http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Compressed_air_foam_system

He is an absolute expert on coal mine fires, we have been extremely lucky to have him on board to give us so much advice, compassion and help, he really has given us a lot of support and imparted a lot of knowledge on to us.

I don't think the EPA or any of our authorities have even mentioned the bacteria or microbes, let alone test for them.

48a



FIRE SERVICES
COMMISSIONER
VICTORIA

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28 April 2014

CD/14/162188

[REDACTED]
Via email
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I write to thank you for your contribution to the Hazelwood (Morwell) Open Cut fire "expert panel" during February / March 2014. Your contribution was important and provided an opportunity for you to bring your operational expertise to a discussion with other panel members.

It has not been normal practice to provide a peer review and provide comment to an operational strategy during the fire operation whilst a fire is still burning. However, for this incident, this approach was critical and worked extremely well.

I therefore thank you for your input and for providing such an objective assessment and interactive discussion.

It was extremely worthwhile and served to actually realign the fire strategy so as to ensure the Incident Controller and myself had a proactive approach to the overall fire strategy.

Yours sincerely

Craig Lapsley PSM
Fire Services Commissioner, Victoria

49.

I include now some hourly air quality charts from EPA website, showing “offline” back to 1996 I didn’t look at every single one, but I looked at an awful lot, and could not find one “online” for morwell east or west pre say start of February 2014.

EPA air quality hourly update: April 25, 1997 9.00 pm - 10.00 pm

Please note that current data may not be shown for some air quality monitoring stations. Measurements are made continuously at air monitoring stations, but there may be temporary technical issues with the collection and display of data.

Hour: [current](#) | [next](#) | [previous](#) | [choose...](#)

Show: [data readings](#) | [index values](#)

		Data readings						Air quality index		
Region	Station	Carbon Monoxide	Ozone	Nitrogen Dioxide	Sulfur Dioxide	Particles as PM2.5	Particles as PM10	Visibility Reduction	AOI	Summary
	Units	ppm	ppb	ppb	ppb	ug/m3	ug/m3	none		
EAST	Alphington	1.6	0	18	0		35.5		44	GOOD
	Box Hill	1.4	0	27	1			1.57	67	FAIR
	Brighton		0	36			53.5		67	FAIR
	Dandenong									OFFLINE
	Mooroolbark									OFFLINE
WEST	Altona North		0	25	2			1.15	49	GOOD
	Brooklyn									OFFLINE
	Deer Park									OFFLINE
	Footscray	1.1	0	25	4		44.0	0.75	55	GOOD
	Melton									OFFLINE
	Pt. Cook		0	20						N/A
CITY	Richmond									OFFLINE
GEELONG	Geelong Sth.									OFFLINE
LATROBE VALLEY	Morwell South									OFFLINE
	Morwell East									OFFLINE
	Traralgon			22	1			2.36	100	POOR

[View the hourly air quality interactive map.](#)

Air quality index

50.

EPA air quality hourly update: January 30, 1998 10.00 pm - 11.00 pm

Please note that current data may not be shown for some air quality monitoring stations. Measurements are made continuously at air monitoring stations, but there may be temporary technical issues with the collection and display of data.

Hour: [current](#) | [next](#) | [previous](#) | [choose...](#)

Show: [data readings](#) | [index values](#)

Data readings								Air quality index		
Region	Station	Carbon Monoxide	Ozone	Nitrogen Dioxide	Sulfur Dioxide	Particles as PM2.5	Particles as PM10	Visibility Reduction	AOI	Summary
	Units	ppm	ppb	ppb	ppb	ug/m3	ug/m3	none		
EAST	Alphington	0.2	2	10	0		12.0	0.27	15	VERY GOOD
	Box Hill	0.2	2	10	0			0.32	14	VERY GOOD
	Brighton		5	9						N/A
	Dandenong		4	9						N/A
	Mooroolbark									OFFLINE
WEST	Altona North		9	1	0					N/A
	Brooklyn									OFFLINE
	Deer Park									OFFLINE
	Footscray	0.1	7	9	0		14.8	0.35	19	VERY GOOD
	Melton									OFFLINE
	Pt Cook		9	0				0.27	11	VERY GOOD
CITY	Richmond									OFFLINE
GEELONG	Geelong Sth		3					0.52	22	VERY GOOD
LATROBE VALLEY	Morwell South									OFFLINE
	Morwell East									OFFLINE
	Traralgon		8	7	0			0.37	16	VERY GOOD

 [View the hourly air quality interactive map.](#)

[Air quality index](#)

EPA air quality hourly update: January 30, 1999 10.00 pm - 11.00 pm

Please note that current data may not be shown for some air quality monitoring stations. Measurements are made continuously at air monitoring stations, but there may be temporary technical issues with the collection and display of data.

Hour: [current](#) | [next](#) | [previous](#) | [choose...](#)Show: [data readings](#) | [index values](#)

		Data readings						Air quality index		
Region	Station	Carbon Monoxide	Ozone	Nitrogen Dioxide	Sulfur Dioxide	Particles as PM2.5	Particles as PM10	Visibility Reduction	AOI	Summary
		Units	ppm	ppb	ppb	ug/m3	ug/m3	none		
EAST	Alphington		2	7	0			0.31	13	VERY GOOD
	Box Hill	0.1	2	6	0		18.0	0.34	23	VERY GOOD
	Brighton		11	3			11.8	0.30	15	VERY GOOD
	Dandenong		8	0				0.30	13	VERY GOOD
	Mooroolbark									OFFLINE
WEST	Altona North		5	0	0			0.31	13	VERY GOOD
	Brooklyn									OFFLINE
	Deer Park									OFFLINE
	Footscray	0.1	11	4	0		10.3	0.27	13	VERY GOOD
	Melton									OFFLINE
	Pt. Cook		8	0				0.25	11	VERY GOOD
CITY	Richmond									OFFLINE
GEELONG	Geelong Sth.	0.0	11	0	0			0.30	13	VERY GOOD
LATROBE VALLEY	Morwell South									OFFLINE
	Morwell East									OFFLINE
	Traralgon		8	7	3			0.96	41	GOOD

[View the hourly air quality interactive map.](#)

Air quality index

EPA air quality hourly update: January 30, 2000 10.00 pm - 11.00 pm

Please note that current data may not be shown for some air quality monitoring stations. Measurements are made continuously at air monitoring stations, but there may be temporary technical issues with the collection and display of data.

Hour: [current](#) | [next](#) | [previous](#) | [choose...](#)

Show: [data readings](#) | [index values](#)

		Data readings						Air quality index		
Region	Station	Carbon Monoxide	Ozone	Nitrogen Dioxide	Sulfur Dioxide	Particles as PM2.5	Particles as PM10	Visibility Reduction	AOI	Summary
		Units	ppm	ppb	ppb	ug/m3	ug/m3	none		
EAST	Alphington	0.1	0	13	0		5.8	0.27	11	VERY GOOD
	Box Hill	0.2	0	11	0		5.0	0.28	12	VERY GOOD
	Brighton		1	4			8.3	0.31	13	VERY GOOD
	Dandenong		5				8.3	0.29	12	VERY GOOD
	Mooroolbark									OFFLINE
WEST	Altona North		4	3	0			0.25	11	VERY GOOD
	Brooklyn									OFFLINE
	Deer Park									OFFLINE
	Footscray	0.1	3	9	0		10.5		13	VERY GOOD
	Melton									OFFLINE
	Pt. Cook									OFFLINE
CITY	Richmond									OFFLINE
GEELONG	Geelong Sth.	0.2	6	2	0			0.35	15	VERY GOOD
LATROBE VALLEY	Morwell South									OFFLINE
	Morwell East									OFFLINE
	Traralgon		6	9	0			0.39	17	VERY GOOD

[View the hourly air quality interactive map.](#)

Air quality index

53.

EPA air quality hourly update: January 30, 2001 10.00 pm - 11.00 pm

Please note that current data may not be shown for some air quality monitoring stations. Measurements are made continuously at air monitoring stations, but there may be temporary technical issues with the collection and display of data.

Hour: [current](#) | [next](#) | [previous](#) | [choose...](#)

Show: [data readings](#) | [index values](#)

Data readings								Air quality index		
Region	Station	Carbon Monoxide	Ozone	Nitrogen Dioxide	Sulfur Dioxide	Particles as PM2.5	Particles as PM10	Visibility Reduction	AQI	Summary
	Units	ppm	ppb	ppb	ppb	ug/m3	ug/m3	none		
EAST	Alphington		3	12	0		11.3	0.28	14	VERY GOOD
	Box Hill	0.2	2	14	0		12.3	0.41	17	VERY GOOD
	Brighton		11				12.0	0.31	15	VERY GOOD
	Dandenong		8	8				0.31	13	VERY GOOD
	Mooroolbark									OFFLINE
WEST	Altona North		12	0	0			0.28	12	VERY GOOD
	Brooklyn									OFFLINE
	Deer Park									OFFLINE
	Footscray									OFFLINE
	Melton									OFFLINE
	Pl. Cook		18	0						N/A
CITY	Richmond	0.0		9			15.4		19	VERY GOOD
GEELONG	Geelong Sth.	0.0	11	2	0			0.34	14	VERY GOOD
LATROBE VALLEY	Morwell South									OFFLINE
	Morwell East									OFFLINE
	Traralgon		11	4	1					N/A

[View the hourly air quality interactive map.](#)

Air quality index

EPA air quality hourly update: January 30, 2002 10.00 pm - 11.00 pm

Please note that current data may not be shown for some air quality monitoring stations. Measurements are made continuously at air monitoring stations, but there may be temporary technical issues with the collection and display of data.

Hour: [current](#) | [next](#) | [previous](#) | [choose...](#)Show: [data readings](#) | [index values](#)

		Data readings						Air quality index		
Region	Station	Carbon Monoxide	Ozone	Nitrogen Dioxide	Sulfur Dioxide	Particles as PM2.5	Particles as PM10	Visibility Reduction	AOI	Summary
		Units	ppm	ppb	ppb	ug/m3	ug/m3	none		
EAST	Alphington	0.1		6	0		9.0	0.30	13	VERY GOOD
	Box Hill	0.2	10	7	0			0.32	14	VERY GOOD
	Brighton		14	1			0.3	0.33	14	VERY GOOD
	Dandenong		13	1			5.1	0.34	14	VERY GOOD
	Mooroolbark									OFFLINE
WEST	Altona North		9	1	0			0.29	12	VERY GOOD
	Brooklyn									OFFLINE
	Deer Park									OFFLINE
	Footscray		14	4	0		8.3		14	VERY GOOD
	Melton									OFFLINE
	Pt. Cook		16	0				0.30	16	VERY GOOD
CITY	Richmond	0.1					3.6		5	VERY GOOD
GEELONG	Geelong Sth.	0.0	12	0				0.31	13	VERY GOOD
LATROBE VALLEY	Morwell South									OFFLINE
	Morwell East									OFFLINE
	Traralgon		21	3	2			0.52	22	VERY GOOD


[View the hourly air quality interactive map.](#)
[Air quality index](#)

EPA air quality hourly update: January 30, 2003 10.00 pm - 11.00 pm

Please note that current data may not be shown for some air quality monitoring stations. Measurements are made continuously at air monitoring stations, but there may be temporary technical issues with the collection and display of data.

Hour: [current](#) | [next](#) | [previous](#) | [choose...](#)

Show: [data readings](#) | [index values](#)

Data readings							Air quality index			
Region	Station	Carbon Monoxide	Ozone	Nitrogen Dioxide	Sulfur Dioxide	Particles as PM2.5	Particles as PM10	Visibility Reduction	AOI	Summary
	Units	ppm	ppb	ppb	ppb	ug/m3	ug/m3	none		
EAST	Alphington	0.1	6	8	0		8.8	0.27	11	VERY GOOD
	Box Hill	0.2								N/A
	Brighton		14	2			12.5	0.34	16	VERY GOOD
	Dandenong		15	2			5.1	0.29	15	VERY GOOD
	Mooroolbark	0.1	12	4			6.6		12	VERY GOOD
WEST	Altona North		5	9	5			0.30	13	VERY GOOD
	Brooklyn									OFFLINE
	Deer Park									OFFLINE
	Footscray	0.1	7	8	1		11.6	0.35	15	VERY GOOD
	Melton		11							N/A
	Pt Cook		9	4				0.30	13	VERY GOOD
CITY	Richmond	0.1		5			3.1		4	VERY GOOD
GEELONG	Geelong Sth.		6	0	0		11.8	0.28	15	VERY GOOD
LATROBE VALLEY	Morwell South									OFFLINE
	Morwell East									OFFLINE
	Traralgon		12	3	1		13.3	0.39	17	VERY GOOD

[View the hourly air quality interactive map.](#)

Air quality index

EPA air quality hourly update: January 30, 2004 10.00 pm - 11.00 pm

Please note that current data may not be shown for some air quality monitoring stations. Measurements are made continuously at air monitoring stations, but there may be temporary technical issues with the collection and display of data.

Hour: [current](#) | [next](#) | [previous](#) | [choose...](#)Show: [data readings](#) | [index values](#)

Data readings								Air quality index		
Region	Station	Carbon Monoxide	Ozone	Nitrogen Dioxide	Sulfur Dioxide	Particles as PM2.5	Particles as PM10	Visibility Reduction	AOI	Summary
	Units	ppm	ppb	ppb	ppb	ug/m3	ug/m3	none		
EAST	Alphington	0.2	10		0		16.7	0.40	21	VERY GOOD
	Box Hill	0.2								N/A
	Brighton		18	1			8.3	0.34	18	VERY GOOD
	Dandenong		5	9			6.9	0.38	16	VERY GOOD
	Mooroolbark	0.0	6	9			8.0		10	VERY GOOD
WEST	Altona North		23	0	0			0.34	23	VERY GOOD
	Brooklyn									OFFLINE
	Deer Park									OFFLINE
	Footscray	0.2	16	5	0		7.8	0.35	16	VERY GOOD
	Melton		11							N/A
	Pt. Cook		13	2				0.35	15	VERY GOOD
CITY	Richmond	0.0		12			8.4		11	VERY GOOD
GEELONG	Geelong Sth.									OFFLINE
LATROBE VALLEY	Morwell South									OFFLINE
	Morwell East									OFFLINE
	Traralgon		7	12	1		7.6	0.46	20	VERY GOOD


[View the hourly air quality interactive map](#)
[Air quality index](#)

These EPA charts, I would think, Morwell being a high risk area, for air quality, that would be the one area that WOULD NEVER BE "OFFLINE" its crazy.

Oh another thing, Russell Northe, isn't that a conflict of interest him being Minister for Energy and Resources, how can he possibly represent the people properly in that role?

EPA air quality hourly update: January 30, 2005 10.00 pm - 11.00 pm

Please note that current data may not be shown for some air quality monitoring stations. Measurements are made continuously at air monitoring stations, but there may be temporary technical issues with the collection and display of data.

Hour: [current](#) | [next](#) | [previous](#) | [choose...](#)

Show: [data readings](#) | [index values](#)

		Data readings					Air quality index			
Region	Station	Carbon Monoxide	Ozone	Nitrogen Dioxide	Sulfur Dioxide	Particles as PM2.5	Particles as PM10	Visibility Reduction	AOI	Summary
Units		ppm	ppb	ppb	ppb	ug/m3	ug/m3	none		
EAST	Alphington	0.3		12	1		10.8	0.38	16	VERY GOOD
	Box Hill	0.2	10	5	1		12.4	0.34	16	VERY GOOD
	Brighton		12	5			11.6	0.35	15	VERY GOOD
	Dandenong		9	8			13.3	0.39	17	VERY GOOD
	Mooroolbark	0.0	4	14			7.6		12	VERY GOOD
WEST	Altona North		15	3	1			0.34	15	VERY GOOD
	Brooklyn									OFFLINE
	Deer Park									OFFLINE
	Footscray	0.0	10	8	1		8.1	0.32	14	VERY GOOD
	Melton		11							N/A
	Pt Cook		19	0				0.39	19	VERY GOOD
CITY	Richmond	0.0		9			8.1		10	VERY GOOD
GEELONG	Geelong Sth	0.0	10	5	0		13.4	0.35	17	VERY GOOD
LATROBE VALLEY	Morwell South									OFFLINE
	Morwell East									OFFLINE
	Traralgon			7	0		9.7	0.37	16	VERY GOOD

[View the hourly air quality interactive map](#)

Air quality index

EPA air quality hourly update: January 30, 2006 10.00 pm - 11.00 pm

Please note that current data may not be shown for some air quality monitoring stations. Measurements are made continuously at air monitoring stations, but there may be temporary technical issues with the collection and display of data.

Hour: [current](#) | [next](#) | [previous](#) | [choose...](#)

Show: [data readings](#) | [index values](#)

Data readings							Air quality index			
Region	Station	Carbon Monoxide	Ozone	Nitrogen Dioxide	Sulfur Dioxide	Particles as PM2.5	Particles as PM10	Visibility Reduction	AOI	Summary
	Units	ppm	ppb	ppb	ppb	ug/m3	ug/m3	none		
EAST	Alphington	0.2	9	5	0		17.0	0.40	21	VERY GOOD
	Box Hill	0.2	9	4	0		14.8	0.38	19	VERY GOOD
	Brighton		13	2			9.6	0.35	15	VERY GOOD
	Dandenong		10	6			16.0	0.42	20	VERY GOOD
	Mooroolbark	0.0	13	1			13.6	0.38	17	VERY GOOD
WEST	Altona North									OFFLINE
	Brooklyn									OFFLINE
	Deer Park									OFFLINE
	Footscray	0.1	9	5			20.6	0.46	26	VERY GOOD
	Melton		13							N/A
	Pt. Cook		16					0.36	18	VERY GOOD
CITY	Richmond	0.0		3			16.8		21	VERY GOOD
GEELONG	Geelong Sth.	0.0	13	0			18.3	0.34	23	VERY GOOD
LATROBE VALLEY	Morwell South									OFFLINE
	Morwell East									OFFLINE
	Traralgon		11	3	2		14.4	0.42	18	VERY GOOD

[View the hourly air quality interactive map.](#)

Air quality index

I will sign off now Justice Teague, this has been a lot of work so far, and still so much more work to do, for all of us.

I know justice exists, I have seen it done, but not in a situation like this one, such a long standing, ongoing, complex, set of circumstances.

I wish you luck, at the end of the day, we are only humans, we can only do our best, try our hardest, give it our best shot, IT IS GOD WHO PERFORMS THE MIRICLES, not us.

In my heart, I know, that you only want the best and fair thing for the people, my intuition is very strong on that.

Maybe there is no human, who can KEEP THE [REDACTED] HONEST.

Yours Faithfully

Christine Joy Hamilton

[Please see additions to follow](#)

60

This is to Rosemary Lester, Chief Health Officer, fwd fwd she does not reply to me.

From: "Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising" [REDACTED]
To: <chief.healthofficer@health.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Fw: toxicology, carbon monoxide testing morwell
Date: Thursday, 8 May 2014 8:54 PM

----- Original Message -----

From: Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising
To: chief.healthofficer@health.vic.gov.au
Cc: dp&c@dpc.vic.gov.au ; russell.northe@parliament.vic.gov.au ; tanya.plibersek.mp@aph.gov.au
Sent: Wednesday, May 07, 2014 9:22 PM
Subject: Fw: toxicology, carbon monoxide testing morwell

----- Original Message -----

From: Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising
To: chief.healthofficer@health.vic.gov.au
Cc: dp&c@dpc.vic.gov.au ; russell.northe@parliament.vic.gov.au ; tanya.plibersek.mp@aph.gov.au
Sent: Wednesday, May 07, 2014 12:13 AM
Subject: toxicology, carbon monoxide testing morwell

Hello,

I work in Community Health.

Tonight I was shocked, speaking with Morwell Residents about symptoms they are experiencing and finding out that they had not yet been routinely tested for heavy metals or carbon monoxide.

One lady spoke about her two children collapsing, another spoke about her children being unusually aggressive, lethargic and so it goes on, this is just a couple.

I suggested they get tested and they had no idea really where to begin.

I would have thought, since the EPA monitoring of air quality was so so slow to get going, that testing of individuals, residents would have been the next best way to establish if it was dangerous levels of toxins in the air or not.

Throughout this whole event, not in my wildest dreams did I think that routine testing would not have been carried out yet and that people would not have been encouraged, prompted to get along to the hospital and get themselves tested.

Please correct me if I have the wrong impression on this.

Can you please follow this up, and get some sort of campaigning going asap, and make damn sure that the residents are ok.

Kind Regards
Christine Hamilton.

61

This is to the Premier please read.

From: "Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising" [REDACTED]
To: <dp&c@dpc.vic.gov.au>
Cc: <libs@vic.liberal.org.au>; <premier@dpc.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Fw: Morwell Mine Fire and current situation in the Mine
Date: Thursday, 8 May 2014 8:53 PM

Dear Mr Premier,

Mr Napthine,

I received a call from Russell Northes Secretary today, regarding the email below,

She said Russell had asked her to call me, explain that Parliament was sitting, that I had sent a number of emails, and cc to the appropriate people, that it seemed I had already covered these issues and basically that was it.

I explained that I had not really spoken to anyone about the issues, was just CC to keep the people in the loop that should be and I would like to discuss these matters with Russell,

I asked why she was calling, and still wasn't clear on that, and she proceeded to repeat the above, so then I said, "So you are actually calling to tell me that Russell will not discuss these things with me then" she said, "do not put words in my mouth. She asked me if I would like Russell to forward my concerns on to the relevant people, depts and I said "are you telling me that as Local Member Russell Northe cannot talk about these issues"? again she asked if I would like Russell to fwd my concerns to the relevant people/depts at that point I was just dumbfounded and speechless and she hung up.

In my books, this is not good enough.

From Russells own website "I'm passionate about our region and I believe we need a strong representative who will always stand up for us"

Our Local member on the Mornington Peninsula, Martin Dixon, has and would be happy to meet with me about important issues such as these if it were in his area.

I look forward to your reply and for you to have some input into this matter.

Kind Regards
Christine Hamilton.

62

This is "the email below" referred to in the above

----- Original Message -----

From: Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising

To: russell.northe@parliament.vic.gov.au

Cc: dp&c@dpc.vic.gov.au ; Greg.Hunt.MP@aph.gov.au

Sent: Wednesday, May 07, 2014 9:25 PM

Subject: Morwell Mine Fire and current situation in the Mine

Hello Mr Northe,

I received a letter from the Premier, thanking me for my correspondence dated 3rd April 2014, stating that he had passed my concerns on to you and that you would be in touch with me to follow up my concerns, that letter was sent to me on 24th April 2014, since I have had no response from you and it is now 7th May I am contacting you.

I would like to discuss a number of things with you.

Organising payment for analysis of ash, soil and water samples taken by Morwell residents.

Streaming Web Cam from the Morwell Open Cut mine to the GDF Suez website so residents can view current situation at any time they are feeling worried.

Campaign Toxicology testing for heavy metals and other elements and data recording of ALL willing Morwell residents

Old Faithful and hotspots in the mine, the current situation, a detailed report on number of hotspots size of hotspots, progress of Old Faithful and hotspots and estimated date of all being extinguished fully

Rejection of insurance claims of Morwell Residents on the grounds that the fire is not completely extinguished

Setting up of an Independent Community air monitoring station along the fenceline of the Morwell Mine Northern Batters

I look forward to your response.

Kind Regards

Christine Hamilton

63

This is to John Mitas, Chief Mine Inspector

*From: "Terry & Christine Phoenix Rising" [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: <russell.northe@parliament.vic.gov.au>; <dp&c@dpc.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Morwell Open Cut Mine
Date: Thursday, 8 May 2014 8:42 PM*

Hello John,

You may remember you called me a little while ago, regarding Old Faithful and Hotspots in the Morwell Open Cut Mine.

I advised you that the people of Morwell that I have spoken to, would like to have a report on the current situation.

The Status of Old Faithful, estimated full extinguish date.

The number and size of Hotspots, the progress of extinguishing the Hotspots and the estimated full extinguish date.

Bearing in mind John, a number of insurance claims from Morwell residents have been rejected on the grounds that the mine fire is not fully extinguished.

Can you please advise me on the progress of this report for the Morwell Residents.

Thank you

*Kind Regards
Christine Hamilton.*

Justice Teague, I have spent many hours over the last 2 weeks, trying to find some way to afford a multi gas detector, prices range from \$700 for an average device to \$5,000 for a device that would be perfect for our application, outdoor use, to pick up Carbon monoxide Co,,,,,, Sulphur Dioxide So2,,,,,,and Nitrogen Dioxide No2.

It is round \$450 for 3 days to hire one.

I have been emailing [REDACTED] at EPA asking have they decided if they can lease equipment to the Morwell Community to do independent testing, but, no response to date.

Myself, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], went one night sneaking along the freeway, bout 2 weeks ago along the fenceline of the northern batters, each time a car came we layed down, we were looking for evidence of Old Faithful on the Northern Batters. We smelled something very strong, I have never smelled it before, we all smelled it, walked on the smell went, walked back and we smelled it again, I can only describe it as catching in your lower throat and like coal smell but with something else mixed in which was stronger.

A chemist man has contacted us, he also used to be EPA monitor in Morwell, he showed me letters he has written, to the government (I will not include these letters as the man is doing a submission, but just in case anything happens and he cant get his submission in if you ask me I can provide them to you with his permission, what he has said and provided to me is in confidence) going into fine detail about a "smell" like naphthalene along the freeway bout same spot we were that night.

On speaking to this man, he said, if you pick up carbon monoxide with a gas detector you can pretty much know there are other nasty things along with that, so we are doing our damndest to be able to get some more evidence. The last month or so, a lot of residents have reported a very strong fertilizer smell, EPA say they cannot find the source and don't know what it is, I am determined to find the source.

I am guessing if we do this, you will accept it before August.

When on the town side of the freeway, we found like a crater bout 5 foot across, we dug a little, the ground was warm in this crater, the ground surrounding this crater was definitely cold, this was bout 2 weeks ago, and I watched the update by Craig Lapsley about the hotspots yesterday 10 May 2014, talking about slippage of the mine faces.....

Today on the Voices of the Valley facebook group someone reported about testing for heavy metals, not covered by medicare but they will only charge \$100 as special, Not good enough, this should have been done immediately after mine fire started to establish whether or not to evacuate the town, and now, a proper health study should include this automatically.

A friend [REDACTED] had a telephone conversation with Trevor Rowe GDF bout some things, he had nothing to say when Amy brought up the subject about insurance claims being rejected on the grounds that the fire is not fully extinguished.....not good enough.

65.

one last EPA chart for you

This bulletin is updated hourly with information calculated on data readings averaged over eight hours for carbon monoxide, 24 hours for PM2.5 and one hour for PM10.

EPA air quality hourly update: May 10, 2014 9:00 am - 10:00 am

Please note that current data may not be shown for some air quality monitoring stations. Measurements are made continuously at air monitoring stations, but there may be temporary technical issues with the collection and display of data.

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Air quality indicators

Station	Carbon Monoxide	Particles as PM2.5	Particles as PM10	Visibility Reduction
Morwell South	4	48		56
Morwell East	2	170		67
Traralgon	5	44	40	75

Not sampled	Very good 0-33	Good 34-66	Fair 67-99	Poor 100-149	Very poor 150+
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Disclaimer: The data used to compile EPA air quality bulletins come directly from EPA's air monitoring stations. This data may be adjusted at a later time through a standardised procedure to allow for instrument errors, power interruptions and the like.

Shouldn't this be enough for all the locals to get heavy metal testing done free?

I sign off again now, and I will send via email anything else important or relevant, even after closing date, unless you advise me otherwise.

Good luck to you all and may God help you to read and learn lots and may he give you the power to hold people accountable.

Yours Faithfully

Christine Hamilton