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CRINGILA PUBLIC SCHOOL
MONTHLY SUBSURFACE GAS
MONITORING REPORT
FEBRUARY 2020

J153825-03







NSW Department
of Education

Cringila Public School

35 Sheffield Street
Cringila NSW 2502

C107471:TO

Document Control

Document Quality Management Details.							
Job Reference:	J153825-03						
Report Name:	Monthly Subsurface Gas Monitoring Report – February 2020						
Site Details:	Cringila Public School – 35 Sheffield Street, Cringila NSW						
Client Name:	NSW Department of Education						
Client Number:	C107471						
Signatures:	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Prepared By:</td> <td>Authorised By:</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tom Oyston Property Risk Consultant</td> <td>Scott McIlwain Regional Manager</td> </tr> </table>	Prepared By:	Authorised By:			Tom Oyston Property Risk Consultant	Scott McIlwain Regional Manager
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Issue Status

Version No.	Date	Creator	Reviewer
1	21/02/2020	Tom Oyston	Scott Mcilwain

Document Circulation

No. Copies	Type	Customer Name	Position & Title
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Monthly Subsurface Gas Monitoring Report – February 2020

Cringila Public School

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1. INTRODUCTION

This report summarises the findings of the February 2020 monthly round of subsurface gas monitoring carried out at Cringila Public School, located at 35 Sheffield Street, Cringila NSW (refer **Figure 1** in **Appendix A** for site layout).

The works were undertaken on 18th February 2020. The work forms part of an ongoing monitoring program prepared for the site in response to a Clean-Up Notice issued to the site (Notice No. 1557944, dated 25th October 2017). Works are undertaken in conjunction with weekly near-surface temperature monitoring and ambient air quality monitoring for the purpose of assessing subsurface gas risk associated with combusting coal fill processes identified within the north western hotspot area within the school grounds.

2. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

Daily meteorological data obtained from the Albion Park Weather (Wollongong Airport) (station 068241) was collected prior to and during the monitoring round to provide meteorological data and to assist in accounting for changes in gas concentrations between monitoring events.

The weather station is situated approximately 14km south of the site. **Table 1** below summarises the meteorological variation experienced in the vicinity of the site leading up to and during the monitoring event.

Table 1: Weather Observations – Albion Park (station 068241)

Date	Temperature		Rainfall	Wind Parameters				Barometric Pressure	
	9am	3pm		9am		3pm		9am	3pm
	°C	°C	mm	Direction	Speed (km/hr)	Direction	Speed (km/hr)	hPa	hPa
12/02/2020	23.3	23.3	0.8	SSE	13	ESE	13	1010.6	1010.7
13/02/2020	23	25.6	20	SSW	9	E	20	1012.4	1011.6
14/02/2020	23	25.2	2	SSE	7	SE	22	1010.7	1007.3
15/02/2020	22.8	24.3	0.2	Calm		NE	13	1014.9	1006.3
16/02/2020	22.8	23	2	SW	7	SSE	20	1014.8	1014.7
17/02/2020	20.1	21.8	12.2	S	13	E	9	1015.7	1013.4
18/02/2020	24.5	25.4	0	NNW	17	ENE	20	1009.5	1005

The weather observations (as demonstrated in **Table 1** above) indicate the following:

- Temperatures during the week prior, and on the morning of monitoring were moderately warm, and were generally observed to increase throughout the day;
- Moderate rainfall was recorded during the week prior to monitoring, on the 13th and 17th;
- High wind speeds (>10km/h) were recorded on almost all afternoons and some mornings of the week prior to and day of monitoring. Afternoon wind speeds were generally higher than morning wind speeds; and
- Barometric pressure was observed to fluctuate over the week prior to monitoring, peaking on the morning of the 17th.

3. FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

Fieldwork was undertaken on 18th February 2020. Monitoring was carried out using a calibrated GA5000 Landfill Gas Meter (calibration certificates are provided in **Appendix B**).

3.1 Subsurface Gas Wells

The monitoring ports of the GA5000 were fitted to the X-cap of each of the 9 (GG1 to GG9) subsurface monitoring wells. Subsurface gas and flow rate were recorded as well as concentrations of the following Hazardous Gases (refer to **Figure 2** of **Appendix A** for monitoring locations);

Methane (CH₄) - (%v/v): Maximum and stable concentrations;

Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) - (%v/v): Maximum and stable concentrations;

Oxygen (O₂) - (%v/v): Minimum and stable concentrations;

Carbon Monoxide (CO) - (ppm): Maximum concentration;

Hydrogen Sulphide (H₂S) - (ppm): Maximum concentration;

Relative pressure (mbar);

Atmospheric pressure (mbar);

Balance (v/v%); and

Flow rate (L/hr): stabilised concentration (within subsurface gas monitoring wells only).

3.2 Service Pits

Service pits were assessed by inserting the GA5000 nozzle into the pits with the sampling tube inserted at least 30 cm below the cover grate for a minimum of 30 seconds. The locations of service pits monitored (P1 to P12) are presented in **Figure 2** of **Appendix A**.

4. ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

4.1 Criteria for Ground Gases

Criteria for ground gases in gas monitoring wells is selected based on the threshold levels presented in *Solid Waste Landfills Guideline* (NSW EPA 2016) and presented below in **Table 2**.

Analyte	Threshold level reference	Unit	Threshold Level	Comments
CH ₄	NSW EPA 2016 ⁽¹⁾	% (volume/volume)	1.0	The threshold level for further investigation and corrective action
CO ₂			1.5	

Note:

1. The threshold levels for further investigation and corrective action are detection of methane at concentrations above 1% (volume/volume) carbon dioxide at concentrations of 1.5% (volume/volume) above established natural background levels.

When the above-mentioned levels are exceeded, further characterisation of the obtained values through the calculation of Gas Screening Values (GSV) will be required. Both on-site and off-site risk associated with subsurface landfill gas is further characterised through the calculation of the GSV. Using both the total concentration and flow rate, the level of risk associated with any identified subsurface gas concentrations at

each of these locations can be assessed. The method of deriving a GSV and associated landfill gas risk has been adopted by the calculations below specified in the Modified Wilson and Card classification *Guidelines for the Assessment and Management of Sites Impacted by Hazardous Ground Gases* (NSW EPA 2012).

GSV refer to the concentrations of CH₄ or CO₂ gas measured in a monitoring well multiplied by the measured borehole flow rate.

Table 3 below presents a summary of the Modified Wilson and Card classification used to calculate GSV and Characteristic Situation (CS) as well as the risk classification in accordance with the Guideline.

Gas Screening Value Threshold (L/hr)	Characteristic Gas Situation	Risk Classification	Additional Factors
<0.07	1	Very low risk	Typically, CH ₄ <1% v/v and/or CO ₂ <5% v/v, otherwise consider increase to Situation 2 ¹
<0.7	2	Low risk	Borehole flow rate not to exceed 70L/hr otherwise consider increase to Situation 3
<3.5	3	Moderate risk	-
<15	4	Moderate to high risk	Consider need for Level 3 risk assessment
<70	5	High risk	Level 3 risk assessment required
>70	6	Very high risk	

Applicable Gas criteria for service pits is presented below in **Table 4**.

Analyte	Threshold level reference	Unit	Threshold Level	Comments
CH ₄	NSW EPA 2016 ⁽¹⁾	% (volume/volume)	1.0	The threshold level for further investigation and corrective action
CO ₂			1.5	
CO ₂	Safe Work Australia HSIS ⁽²⁾	ppm	TWA ⁽³⁾ : 5000 STEL ⁽⁴⁾ : 30,000	Work Place Exposure Standards
H ₂ S	Safe Work Australia HSIS ⁽²⁾	ppm	TWA: 10 STEL: 15	- Only applicable to service pits to assess risks for utility workers
CO	Safe Work Australia HSIS ⁽²⁾	ppm	TWA: 30	- Not applicable for ground gas

¹ This was discussed in the scope of the Phase 2 Environmental Site Assessment (Greencap 2018), as indoor monitoring at School Building is regularly undertaken and results obtained so far did not indicate any gas intrusion, GSV values obtained during this monitoring program that are less than 0.07 will be considered as Very Low Risk.

5. MONITORING RESULTS

5.1 Subsurface Gas Well Monitoring

A summary of the subsurface gas well results is presented below in **Table 5: Subsurface Gas Results**.

CH₄ was detected in monitoring wells GG3 and GG5, at levels below the adopted NSW EPA (2016) Guideline.

CO₂ concentrations were detected in exceedance of the adopted NSW EPA (2016) threshold in wells GG2, GG3, GG5, GG6, GG7, GG8 and GG9.

Measured flow rates recorded in all subsurface monitoring wells were consistently 0.0L/hr.

CO was detected only in well GG9. H₂S was not detected in any of the subsurface monitoring wells. O₂ concentrations ranged between 9%v/v (GG9) and 19.4%v/v (GG1).

5.2 Characteristic Gas Situation

GSVs calculated for CH₄ and CO₂ in each of the monitored wells indicated a Characteristic Gas Situation of CS1 “Very Low Risk” according to the Modified Wilson and Card classification method presented in **Table 3**.

Table 5: Subsurface Gas Results

Well ID	Monitoring Date	Time	Relative Pressure (mb)	Stable Flow Rate (L/hr)	Methane		Gas Screening Value	Carbon Dioxide		Gas Screening Value	Oxygen (%v/v)	Carbon Monoxide (ppm)	Hydrogen Sulfide (ppm)	Balance (%)	Barometric Pressure (mBar)
					Peak (%v/v)	Stable (%v/v)		Peak (%v/v)	Stable (%v/v)						
GG1	18/02/2020	10:27	0.07	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.5	0.4	0.00	19.4	0	0	80.3	1005
GG2	18/02/2020	10:18	0.07	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00	2.5	2.5	0.00	14.4	0	0	83	1005
GG3	18/02/2020	9:21	-2.62	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.00	4.9	4.9	0.00	9.2	0	0	85.8	1005
GG4	18/02/2020	INACCESSIBLE													
GG5	18/02/2020	9:12	-0.03	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.00	5.3	5.2	0.00	10.2	0	0	84.4	1005
GG6	18/02/2020	9:30	0.09	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00	5.7	5.7	0.00	9.3	0	0	85	1005
GG7	18/02/2020	9:35	0.03	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00	3.4	3.4	0.00	11.7	0	0	84.9	1005
GG8	18/02/2020	9:46	-4.08	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00	1.7	1.6	0.00	13.6	0	0	84.8	1005
GG9	18/02/2020	9:52	0.05	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00	11.4	11.3	0.00	9	1	0	97.8	1005

Hazardous Ground Gas Guideline Criteria

	Denotes Characteristic Gas Situation of 1 (NSW EPA (2012), <i>Guidelines for the Assessment and Management of Sites Impacted by Hazardous Ground Gases</i>)
	Denotes Characteristic Gas Situation of 2 (NSW EPA (2012), <i>Guidelines for the Assessment and Management of Sites Impacted by Hazardous Ground Gases</i>)
	Denotes Characteristic Gas Situation of 3 (NSW EPA (2012), <i>Guidelines for the Assessment and Management of Sites Impacted by Hazardous Ground Gases</i>)
	Elevated above the 1% volume criteria for CH ₄ and 1.5% for CO ₂ presented in the NSW EPA <i>Solid Waste Landfill Guidelines (2016)</i>

5.3 Service Pits

A total of 12 service pits are monitored in the field for potential accumulated or venting gases. Gas readings were taken from within the service pits, as well as above the service pits (approximately 1m directly above). A summary of gas results from within and above service pits is presented in **Table 6** below.

No detectable concentrations of CH₄, CO₂, CO or H₂S were identified in any of the accessible service pits across the school.

Due to access constraints, service pits P2, P9 and P11 were not accessible during the February monitoring round.

Table 6: Service Pit Gas Results

Service Pit		CH ₄ (%v/v)	CO ₂ (%v/v)	O ₂ (%v/v)	CO (ppm)	H ₂ S (ppm)
P1	(1m above pit)	0.0	0.0	19.8	0.0	0.0
	(within pit)	0.0	0.0	19.7	0.0	0.0
P2	(1m above pit)	Inaccessible				
	(within pit)					
P3	(1m above pit)	0.0	0.0	19.8	0.0	0.0
	(within pit)	0.0	0.0	19.8	0.0	0.0
P4	(1m above pit)	0.0	0.0	19.8	0.0	0.0
	(within pit)	0.0	0.0	19.7	0.0	0.0
P5	(1m above pit)	0.0	0.0	20.0	0.0	0.0
	(within pit)	0.0	0.0	20.0	0.0	0.0
P6	(1m above pit)	0.0	0.0	19.7	0.0	0.0
	(within pit)	0.0	0.0	19.8	0.0	0.0
P7	(1m above pit)	0.0	0.0	19.7	0.0	0.0
	(within pit)	0.0	0.0	19.7	0.0	0.0
P8	(1m above pit)	0.0	0.0	19.7	0.0	0.0
	(within pit)	0.0	0.0	19.7	0.0	0.0
P9	(1m above pit)	0.0	0.0	19.9	0.0	0.0
	(within pit)	Inaccessible				
P10	(1m above pit)	0.0	0.0	19.9	0.0	0.0
	(within pit)	0.0	0.0	19.9	0.0	0.0
P11	(1m above pit)	Inaccessible				
	(within pit)					
P12	(1m above pit)	0.0	0.0	19.8	0.0	0.0
	(within pit)	0.0	0.0	19.8	0.0	0.0

6. MONTHLY SITE INSPECTION CHECKLIST

During the monthly subsurface gas monitoring round, a monthly site inspection checklist is also compiled. Refer to the **Monthly Site Inspection Checklist** for the month of February 2020 for details.

7. FINDINGS

The main findings of this subsurface gas monitoring round can be summarised as follows:

All monitoring wells had a GSV of 1 (Very Low Risk). Therefore, detections of CO₂ and CH₄ are not considered to pose a risk to site users or nearby receptors.

Results have indicated that gas emissions from service pits were below relevant criteria and indicative of background concentrations.

8. CONCLUSIONS

Results of this monitoring round indicate the site is Very Low Risk. No unacceptable risk to human health and/or environment was identified during the February 2020 monitoring round.

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Cringila Public School

Appendix A: Figures

Monthly Subsurface Gas Monitoring Report – February 2020

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Appendix B: Calibration Certificates