

Authorities visit Shongweni Landfill for compliance update

An 11-man delegation from the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) and eThekweni

Municipality visited the Shongweni Landfill last week to ensure remedial measures were on track.

Officials from different departments within DEA included Grant Walters, director of enforcement for environmental impact and pollution, who observed while health science company Infotox conducted sampling of emissions from the landfill. Infotox was appointed to conduct a health risk assessment of the landfill, assessing concentrations of emissions and potential risk to community health.

“This is the second round of sampling which has been done. Infotox measures the emissions from the landfill surface, tanks and the storm water dams, and these samples are sent to a laboratory in the United Kingdom for detailed analysis,” said EnviroServ Group technical director Esme Gombault. “This information will be fed into an air dispersion model, which takes weather data, topography and point sources into account to understand what concentrations of these emissions are being experienced by the community and its potential impact.”

This information will be used by Infotox to conduct a health risk assessment, which must be completed by April 2017.

“We are pleased to note that the DEA said actions taken, especially in the leachate tank farm area where tanks have been covered and fitted with activated carbon filters, have significantly improved the odours in that area,” Gombault said.

