



Statement issued by the CEO of EnviroServ, Dean Thompson, in response to social media posts about the Shongweni Landfill Site

14 July 2016

EnviroServ categorically denies a series of irresponsible allegations posted on social media regarding operations at our Shongweni Landfill Site.

The Shongweni site, which has operated since 1992, is licensed by the Department of Environmental Affairs to receive both hazardous and general waste streams. As with our numerous other disposal sites around the country, the Shongweni site undergoes regular licence compliance audits by both the authorities and independent specialists and has been shown to be compliant.

A community-based Monitoring Committee has been monitoring activities at the site for the past 19 years.

In response to complaints about odour problems in the wider Shongweni area since April 2016, we called a town hall meeting. We acknowledged the possibility that, due to current weather conditions, the site could be contributing to the odours being reported in the area.

We agreed to participate in a Working Group to establish the facts. The Working Group, which has met three times, includes community representatives, municipal officials, air quality specialists and a health consultant. My company agreed to fund the appointment, by the community, of an independent air quality specialist to represent their interests.

In addition to our routine air quality tests on and off site, air quality has been sampled at 10 odour hot spots in the community over the past 15 weeks. More than 63 samples analysed, by an independent laboratory, have failed to confirm that the disposal site is the primary cause of the odours. The specialist team appointed by the Working Group is continuing to assess numerous potential odour sources, including our site. They have confirmed that the odours experienced cannot be responsible for the lasting or chronic health effects being reported.

The Working Group engaged an independent medical consultant to investigate claims that there has been a surge in chronic and acute health effects in the greater Hillcrest





area. None of the medical practitioners in the area were able to confirm any unusual or elevated health trends (outside of normal seasonal illnesses).

I take this opportunity to confirm that no occupational health effects have been experienced by the 42 EnviroServ employees who have worked on our Shongweni landfill site for an average 8, 4 years.

EnviroServ has taken this issue very seriously and is committed to help identify and provide solutions to the problem. We value healthy and sustainable community relationships.

I would like to request any person who believes that my company has perpetrated the illegal actions alleged on social media to engage with us directly to verify the facts. If still not satisfied, I encourage these individuals to report these to the relevant authorities, so that they can be properly investigated.

Furthermore, I issue an open invitation for any person who has concerns about the Shongweni Landfill Site to contact the site manager, Clive Kidd (082 7796318) to arrange a site visit and to view all relevant documentation relating to our licence compliance.

The activities of the Working Group have been diligently recorded and are available from the facilitator, Brian Gibson (gibson@icon.co.za). Regular updates have been sent to more than 90 community members who have expressed interest.

Finally, I state unequivocally that EnviroServ is proud of its reputation for responsible waste management. I owe it to my staff, shareholders and all stakeholders to take such steps that are necessary to protect the reputation we have built for more than 35 years.