



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD

**MAYORAL COMMITTEE
CITY HEALTH**

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25 FEBRUARY 2016

Hout Bay Residents

Letter of reply to all the complainants:- Offensive odours from Lucky Star Fishmeal Factory, 18- 23 February 2016.

Dear All

A site visit has been conducted on the 23rd of February 2016 of the Hout Bay area to observe the odours, by members of the City's Air Quality Management Unit. Approximately an hour and 30 minutes was spent in the area making observations from Hangberg Heights, North Shore and Scotts and Beach Estate areas.

The wind was blowing in a light Southerly direction and ambient temperature was in the mid-twenties.

The Lucky Star factory had commenced production on Friday the 19th of February and was in full production at the time of the visit. No abnormal working conditions had been reported or observed.

The factory odours were quite strongly detectable at a range of about 300 m from the plant and in the Hout Bay Heights area. Thereafter the odours dissipated considerably and were barely detectable in North Shore and in Scotts Estate.

The odour was typical of fishmeal production.

Hout Bay has very complex terrain which when coupled with stable atmospheric conditions as is often experienced in late summer, can result in poor atmospheric dispersion conditions prevailing. In essence, the odours can become trapped in the valley until some atmospheric instability returns, compounding the nuisance conditions.

In terms of assessing the likelihood of health risks developing, ambient air quality monitoring data has been extracted from the Western Cape Government Air Quality Monitoring station located at Sentinel School in Hout Bay Heights for the period. This station analyses Hydrogen Sulphide levels – one of the main odorous compounds emitted by the factory.

The maximum Hydrogen Sulphide level was 8.2 micrograms, which is just above the threshold of smell. Health impacts are observed at a range above 125-150 micrograms.

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Making progress possible. Together.

The levels of Hydrogen Sulphide observed were in the nuisance range and do not pose a health hazard at these levels.

The City's Air Quality Officer has been engaging with the Factory management and met with Kevin Changoo – Technical Director Operations for Lucky Star and his team last week on the 18th of February 2016 at the Western Cape Government, Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEAD&P) Offices.

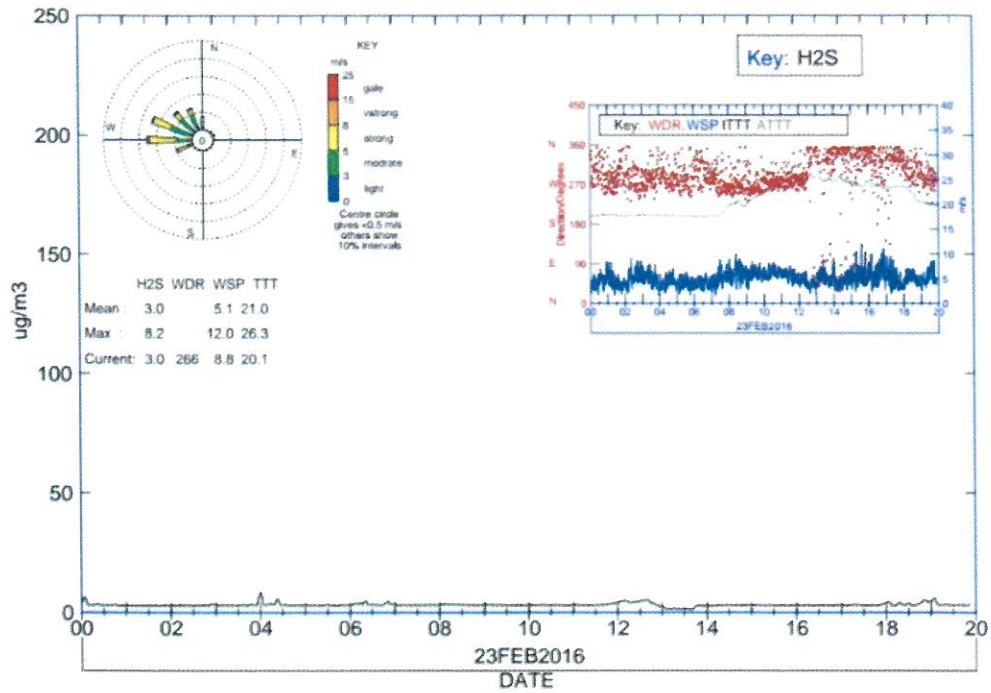
The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the due diligence process for Lucky Star to upgrade their Chemical Scrubber. The necessary Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Checklist was completed and submitted by Lucky Star to DEAD&P late last year.

In a communication dated 29 January 2015, DEAD&P advised that no EIA is required for the installation. Following our meeting of last week, Lucky Star has been given permission to proceed with procuring and commissioning the new scrubber. This process will however take some months to finalise.

It should however be stressed that the new scrubber will not eliminate fishmeal odours altogether.

In the interim the City's Air Quality Management Unit will continue to monitor operations.

MINUTE MEANS TODAY – HOUT BAY
23 Feb 2016 Time 1957



Pp 
SIGNATURE

25/02/2016
DATE