**From:** contact

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 09, 2014 9:35 AM

**To:** [Clive Stott]

**Subject:** Air Quality Monitoring

Dear Mr. Stott,

Thank you for your enquiry regarding the PM10 exceedances, 24 hour PM2.5 and PM10 levels and queries about monitoring relating to the recent Hazelwood Mine Fire.

As you are no doubt aware the EPA Victoria has undertaken an extensive range of air monitoring and forecasting in relation to the Hazelwood Mine Fire. Where we are able, it is the EPA’s policy to make data available to the public. To this end a significant amount of data in relation to the monitoring and assessment of the impacts of the Hazelwood Mine Fire is available on our website.

In order to fully action your request that now extends into monitoring data we will require the completion of a data sharing agreement between yourself and EPA. This agreement is attached. Please fill out your details as per schedule A, sign, and return a copy to:

Operations Manager

Monitoring and Assessment

EPA Centre for Applied Sciences

Ernest Jones Drive Macleod VIC 3085

Additionally the EPA is able to facilitate direct individual requests for data and information that is not already publically available on our website. However, data that is not easily extractable or requires the deployment of resources to extract and analyse requires separate consideration. We are not always able to immediately facilitate individual information requests where data is not easily accessible, requires analysis or interpretation or is not in an appropriately publishable form.

In response to your query about the availability of monitoring prior to the 18thof February please note that a simple, easily deployed, visibility monitor was installed at the Morwell Bowling Club at the earliest opportunity that such an instrument could be obtained. That instrument was installed on the 13thFebruary 2014 and consequently, EPA does not hold any visibility or particle monitoring data from that site prior to that date. Data continues to be obtained and processed. It will be made available in a publishable form once EPA scientists have verified the data.

We note also that extracts of conversation between you and EPA staff which have been posted to the website <http://cleanairtas.com/air-monitoring/morwell-coal-fire.html>. In our view these posts do not fairly reflect the significant level of resources and work undertaken by EPA to support the emergency response. Consistent with our values the EPA’s policy is to share and make data available. We do so in a responsible manner to ensure the data is reliable – particularly as it is clearly accessed and used in a number of ways by members of the public.

Regards,

**Alyce
Customer Service Team**

**EPA Victoria****contact@epa.vic.gov.au**

**From:** [Clive Stott]
**Sent:** Wednesday, 9 April 2014 3:34 PM
**To:** Rosa Moore
**Subject:** Fw: Air Quality Monitoring

**Rosa Moore**
Program Leader - Customer Service
Marketing & Communications

Dear Rosa,

I am in receipt of the following email and attachment received today.

I am not sure who wrote what but it seems strange that after many weeks of trying to get information that should have been readily available as part of the Morwell air monitoring project,  I am now required to fill out an agreement before my few simple questions will be answered.

Can you tell me please:

1) What date did EPA Victoria produce this Agreement,  and,  1a) and start using it?

2) Why was my request for information not treated as an active disclosure under RTI?

I am sorry but I see this Agreement process as a bit ‘over the top’ and as further procrastination, and to make it more difficult, rather than easy, to obtain information.

In this last email it mentions, “Consistent with our values the EPA’s policy is to share and make data available.” but EPA has not, and I am still waiting for these few simple questions to be answered. There really is nothing complicated or time consuming about them.

3) Can you tell me please if the information I have asked for has been made publically available yet on the EPA website? (You mentioned last week that what I had asked for would be on the website).

With regards to what appears to be Alyce’s comments from the Customer Service team:

Thank you for one lot of information I asked for in relation to what monitoring was done in Morwell prior to the 18th February.

I think it would be fair to say a simple, easily deployed, visibility monitor was installed at the Morwell Bowling Club on the 13th when it could be obtained.

EPA did not do any monitoring at Morwell prior to the 13th.

In relation to comments about what is posted on the cleanairtas website all I can say is what is up there is a true record of my attempts to find out about air monitoring in Morwell.

If you feel I have misquoted emails then please feel free to come back to me and I will have a look at it.

Rosa can you look into these things for me and come back to me at your earliest.

I am well aware of the work that EPA Monitoring did at Morwell. Unfortunately, this is being overshadowed by us getting locked into emails and phone calls trying to extract results of what EPA Monitoring did or not do. I pass no judgement on this.

I look forward to hearing from you and having the rest of my few straight forward questions answered please which are provided again below for you convenience from out of previously acknowledged correspondence:

*I notice you have not provided me with any Pm10 exceedances, could these be made available to me please?*

*In relation to these exceedances, (The 24 hour average PM2.5 concentrations exceeded the NEPM PM2.5 advisory reporting standard on 11 days and the*

*carbon monoxide rolling 8 hour average NEPM air quality objective was exceeded on 4 of the 13 days (22/02/2014-06/03/2014) that air monitoring has been undertaken at the Bowling club in in Hazelwood road in Morwell South*

*The 24 hour average PM2.5 concentrations exceeded the NEPM PM2.5 advisory reporting standard on 9 of the 17 days*

*(18/02/2014-06/03/2014) that air monitoring has been undertaken at Ronald Reserve in Morwell East.*

*can you please list for me what the 24hr averaged levels were on each of these days for both*

*the PM2.5's and the PM10's?*

*Thank you Rosa.*

*Kind regards, and I look forward to hearing from you.*

*Clive M. Stott*

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**From:** Rosa Moore

**Sent:** Friday, April 11, 2014 9:43 AM

**To:** [Clive Stott]

**Subject:** RE: Air Quality Monitoring

Dear Mr Stott,

I have sourced the answers to your questions below.

1)      What date did EPA Victoria produce this Agreement,  and,  1a) and start using it?

The Data Release, Supply and obtain Standard was finalised on 6/9/2012. EPA has been using this for data requests before and throughout the Hazelwood incident.

2)      Why was my request for information not treated as an active disclosure under RTI?

By RTI we assume you are referring to the Right to Information process as is used in Queensland and Tasmania. This does not apply to Victoria Government.  It’s the equivalent to Victorian FOI. Details on the Victorian FOI process can be found at : [www.foi.vic.gov.au/](http://www.foi.vic.gov.au/).

3)      Can you tell me please if the information I have asked for has been made publically available yet on the EPA website? (You mentioned last week that what I had asked for would be on the website).

This data is not yet available via the EPA website, though efforts are ongoing to make data related to the Hazelwood fire available.

I am happy to talk further about your initial request and obtaining that information.

Regards,

**Rosa Moore**

Program Leader - Customer Support
Marketing & Communications

**EPA Victoria**

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

(03) 9695 2672  | 0407 433 227 |
 mailto:firstname.lastname@epa.vic.gov.au | [www.epa.vic.gov.au](http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/)

**From:** Clive Stott
**Sent:** Friday, 11 April 2014 11:57 AM
**To:** Rosa Moore
**Subject:** Re: Air Quality Monitoring

Good morning Rosa,

Thank you for the email.

Hi Rosa,

Thank you for calling me back and for your assistance in trying to obtain the air quality information I am seeking for Morwell.

I look forward to hearing back from you either today or at the latest on Monday.

Kind regards,

Clive

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**From:** Rosa Moore

**Sent:** Friday, April 11, 2014 4:20 PM

To: [Clive Stott]

**Subject:** RE: Air Quality Monitoring

Hi Mr Stott,

I have been given information that the ETA on having the data posted on our website is set for Thursday 17th April.

I will let you know if this changes.

Regards,

**Rosa Moore**

Program Leader - Customer Support
Marketing & Communications

**EPA Victoria**

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

(03) 9695 2672  | 0407 433 227 |
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To: Rosa Moore

From: [Clive Stott]

Subject: Re: Air Quality Monitoring

Date: Fri, 11 Apr 2014 16:40:42 +1000

Ms Rosa Moore,

Dear Rosa,

Thank you.

Are they (Monitoring) not prepared to answer my questions prior to that please?

Inquiry submissions are already being received and these people are being denied this final data because of EPA delays.

Thanks again.

Regards,

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From: "Rosa Moore

To: [Clive Stott]

Subject: RE: Air Quality Monitoring

Thread-Topic: Air Quality Monitoring

Date: Thu, 17 Apr 2014 05:04:34 +0000

Dear Mr Stott,

The information that was due to appear on the website today has been delayed.

Our external presence, the EPA web site and EPA Interaction Portal are not currently available to external and internal users. The issue has occurred due to a Telstra fibre being accidently cut in the Northcote area. Telstra are working on this as a priority and we will be able to resume uploading this information once our connection is resumed.

Enjoy the Easter period and I will touch base after the break.

Regards,

**Rosa Moore**
Program Leader - Customer Service
Marketing & Communications
**EPA Victoria**
200 Victoria Street, Carlton VIC 3053 | GPO Box 4395, Melbourne VIC 3001 | DX 210082
**(** 0396952672 | **M** 0477733275 | **E** rosa.moore@epa.vic.gov.au | [www.epa.vic.gov.au](http://www.epa.vic.gov.au)
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*A healthy environment that supports a liveable and prosperous Victoria.*

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