

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/11/11/2416539.htm?site=tropic>

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) says the impact of a shale oil mine pit near Proserpine in the Whitsundays will be placed under further scrutiny.

The EPA says it has issued Queensland Energy Resources Limited with a notice under the Environmental Protection Act.

It means the company has to carry out an environmental evaluation on its exploratory shale oil mining pit near Proserpine.

A Mackay conservation group has raised concerns about acidic water in the pit possibly overflowing during the wet season.

The EPA says there is still several metres between the contaminated water and the top of the pit, but the existing wet weather contingency plan must be reviewed as part of the evaluation.

A spokesman for Queensland Energy Resources says the company is committed to managing the site in an environmentally sustainable way.

Letter from EPA on their agreement with QER regarding the management of the box cut mine pit in QER's Oil Shale Box Cut Pit (McFarlane Deposit) – Mining Development Lease (MDL202)

On 22 September 2008, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) met with representatives of QERL to discuss current and future management of this site. The outcome of the meeting was that QER agreed to undertake an environmental investigation in accordance with s323 of the Environmental Protection Act 1994.

The environmental investigation focuses on the potential for water contained within the box cut pit to impact on groundwater and surface waters, wet weather contingency planning, and identify short and long term environmental management and monitoring measures.

The environmental investigation will also require the development of a rehabilitation strategy for the McFarlane site. Given the complexity of the issues to be addressed, extensive research, investigation and consultation will be necessary to ensure appropriate actions are implemented on site.