

# **RICHARDS BAY CLEAN AIR ASSOCIATION**

## **DUSTFALL MONITORING**

### **OCTOBER 2007**

**Sampling period: 21 September- 22 October 2007**

#### **Monthly Progress Report**

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AER 27.540M\_RBCAA

## 1. METHODOLOGY

This project commenced operation in June 2006. Windblown settle-able dust (fall-out) is monitored using the American Society for Testing and Materials standard method for collection and analysis of dustfall (ASTM D1739). This method employs a simple device consisting of a cylindrical 5 L container half-filled with de-ionised water exposed for one calendar month ( $30 \pm 3$  days). The water is treated with an inorganic biocide to prevent algal growth in the buckets. The most common reagent used for this is a 5% copper sulphate solution (approximately 1 ml per 3 litres of water bucket).



Figure 1: Single bucket monitoring unit, showing sampling bucket with bird ring and security clamp

The bucket stand comprises a ring that is raised above the rim of the bucket to prevent contamination from perching birds (Fig 1). The bucket holder is connected to a 2.1 m galvanized steel pole, which is either directly attached to a fence post or can be attached to a galvanized steel base plate, which is buried to a depth of 500 mm. This allows for a variety of placement options for the fallout samplers. Exposed buckets, when returned to the AER laboratories, are rinsed with deionised water to remove residue from the sides of the bucket, and the bucket contents filtered through a coarse ( $>1$  mm) filter to remove insects and other coarse organic detritus. The sample is then filtered through a pre-weighed paper filter to remove the insoluble fraction, or dust fallout. This residue and filter are dried, and gravimetrically analysed to determine the insoluble fraction (dust fallout).

### 1.1 Operational Aspects

The sampling period was from 21 September to 22 October 2007 and samples were exposed for 31 days. This period complies with the standard exposure period of  $30 \pm 3$  days. No operational problems were encountered in October monitoring month and a valid sample return of 100% was achieved.

## 2. STANDARDS FOR DUST DEPOSITION

The Standards South Africa has published a new set of dustfall standards (SANS 1929:2005). These standards have been used to evaluate the level of dust deposition and are stated in Table 1 and Table 2 below.

### 2.1 Evaluation criteria for dust deposition

Dust deposition rates shall be expressed in units of  $\text{mg/m}^2/\text{day}$  over a 30-days averaging period. Dust deposition is evaluated against a four-band scale as presented in Table 1. Target, action and alert thresholds indicated in and permissible frequency of exceedances are given in Table 2. Margins of tolerance are outline in Section 2.2 and allowances for exceptions in Section 2.3

Table 1: Four-band scale evaluation criteria for dust deposition (SANS 1929:2005).

Band Number	Band Description Label	Dustfall rate (D) ( $\text{mg/m}^2/\text{day}$ , 30-day average)	Comment
1	Residential	$D < 600$	Permissible for residential and light commercial
2	Industrial	$600 < D < 1\ 200$	Permissible for heavy commercial and industrial
3	Action	$1\ 200 < D < 2\ 400$	Requires investigation and remediation if two sequential months lie in this band, or more than three occur in a year.
4	Alert	$2\ 400 < D$	<b>Immediate action and remediation required following the first incidence of dustfall rate being exceeded. Incident report to be submitted to relevant authority.</b>

Table 2. New dustfall standards, target, action and alert thresholds for dust deposition (SANS 1929:2005).

Level	Dustfall Rate ( $\text{mg/m}^2/\text{day}$ )	Permitted Frequency of Exceedances
Target	300	
Action residential	600	Three within any year, no two sequential months.
Action industrial	1 200	Three within any year not sequential months.
<b>Alert threshold</b>	<b>2 400</b>	<b>None. First exceedance requires remediation and compulsory report to authorities.</b>

## **2.2 Margin of tolerance**

An enterprise may submit a request to the authorities to operate within band 3 (action band), as specified in Table 1, for a limited period, provided that this is essential in terms of the practical operation of the enterprise (for example the final removal of a tailings deposit) and provided that an appropriate control technology is applied for the duration. No margin of tolerance will be granted for operations that result in dustfall rates which fall within band 4 (alert band) as specified in Table 1.

## **2.3 Exceptions**

Dustfalls that exceed the specified rates but that can be shown to be the result of some extreme weather or geological event shall be discounted for the purpose of enforcement and control. Such event might typically result in excessive dustfall rates across an entire metropolitan region, and not be localized to a particular operation. Natural seasonal variations, for example, the naturally windy months each year, will not be considered extreme events for this definition.

## **2.4 Application of standards**

Dust deposition rates recorded at RBCAA are appraised according to the standards published by the Standards South Africa (SANS 1929:2005). Dustfall rates within the RESIDENTIAL and INDUSTRIAL ranges do not result in complaints from the public. ACTION and ALERT ranges, generally result in complaints from the public, and therefore considered to be action levels, at which sources of excessive dust must be investigated (if not known) and suitable mitigation measures instituted.

## **3. RESULTS**

During the month in review, all the monitoring sites recorded dustfall rates within the RESIDENTIAL threshold. Site 3 (Alton South West) and Site 8 (Nseleni Municipal Office) recorded the highest dustfall rate of 314 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day each. Site10 (Felixton Village) recorded the lowest dustfall rate of 54 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day, all within that range. Trends of the dust fallout results per site are presented in Appendix A of this report.

#### **4. Recommendations and Actions**

RESIDENTIAL threshold levels were recorded at all the monitoring sites. The results were considered satisfactory as they will not result in community complaints or nuisance.

Regards

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T. Mfenqa

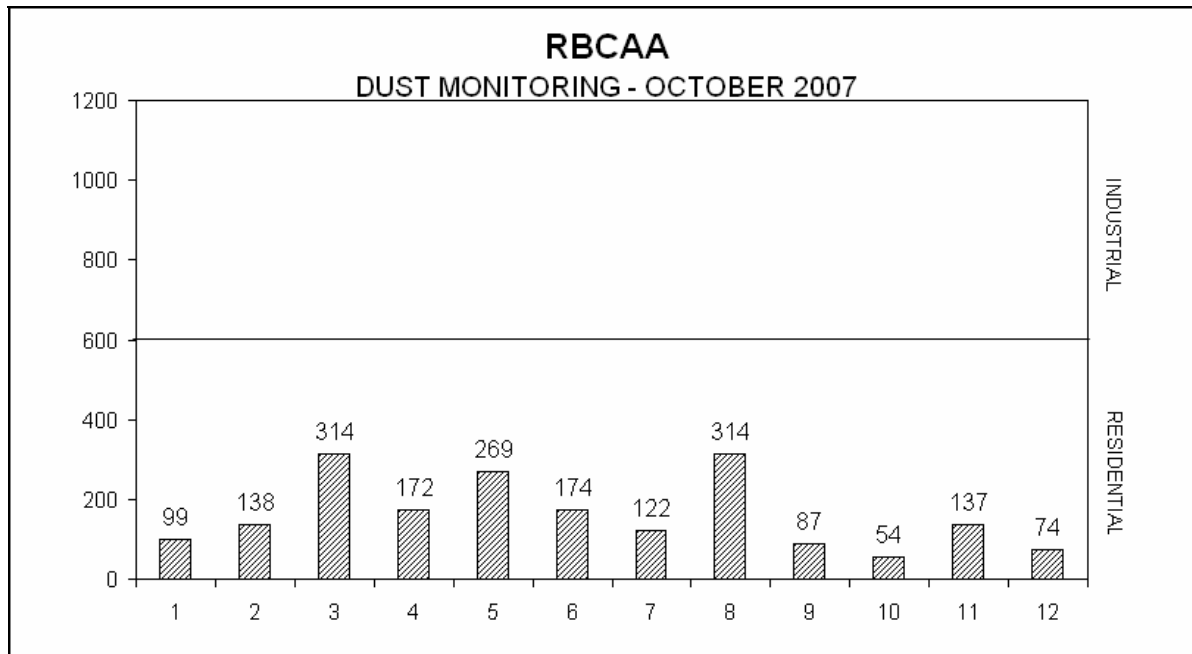
For AER (Pty) Ltd

Report compiled by H. Nuwarinda

## APPENDIX A

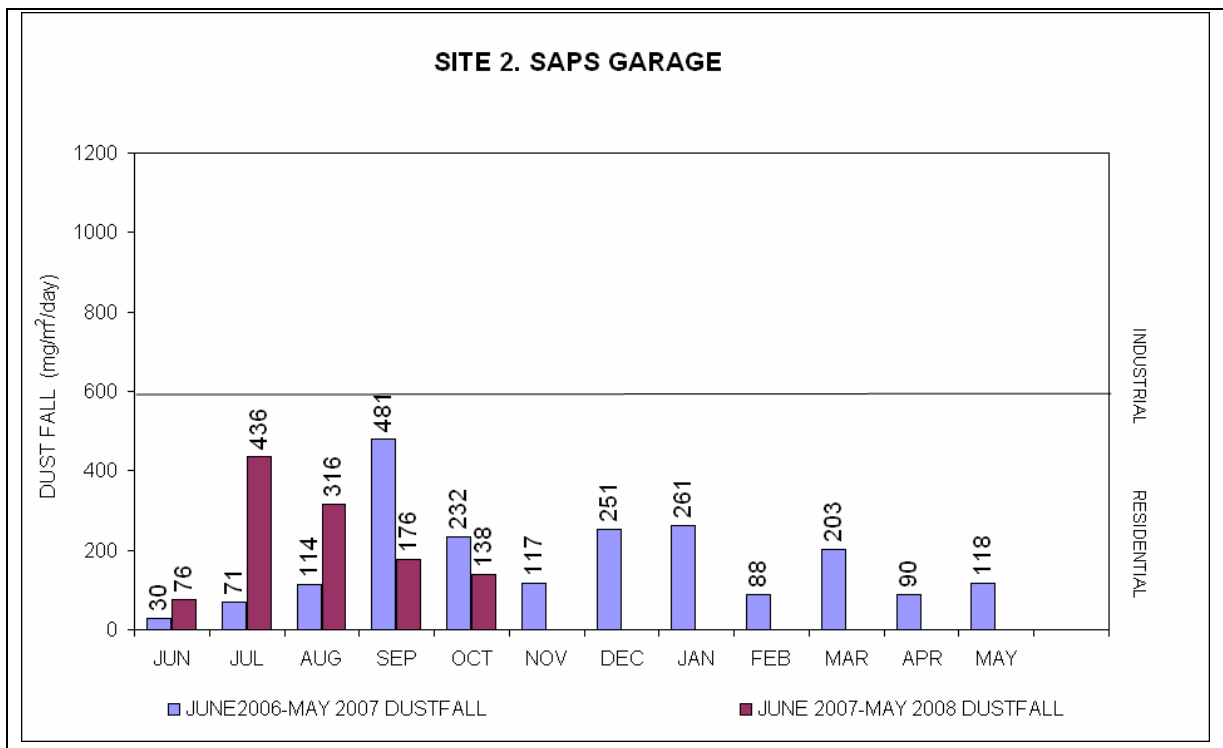
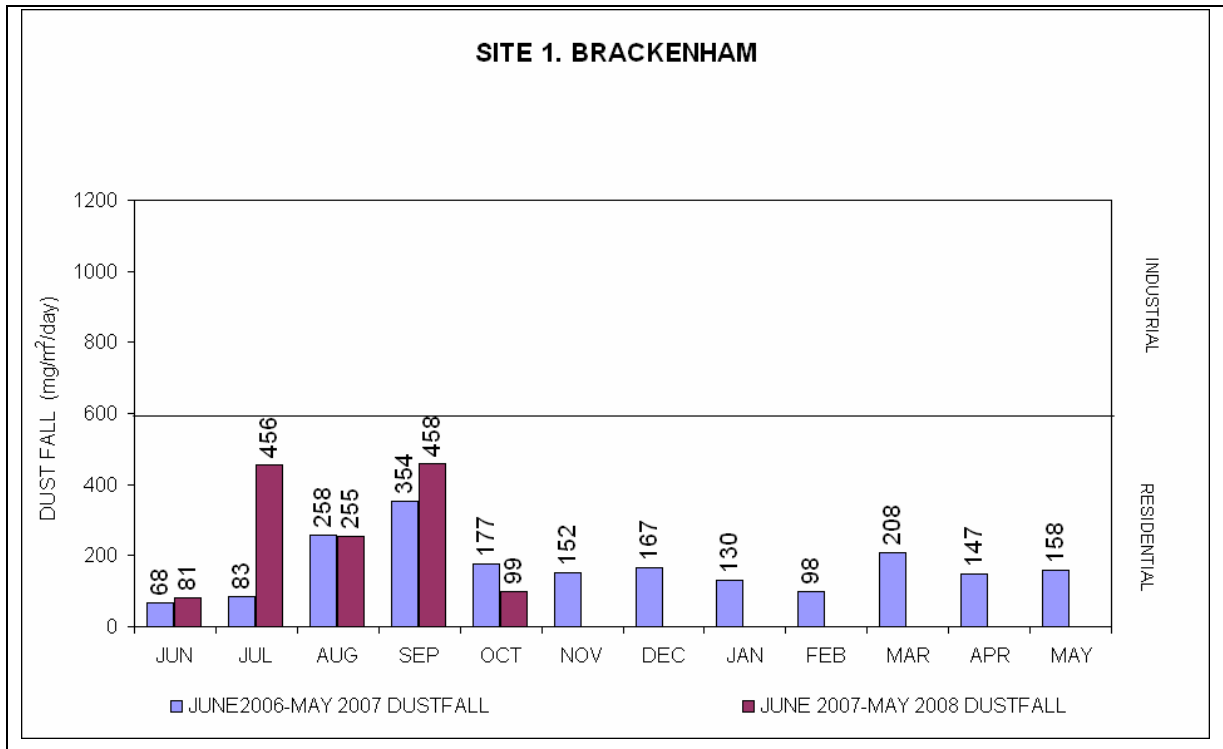
### RBCAA DUST FALLOUT MONTHLY TIMEPLOTS 2006 – 2007

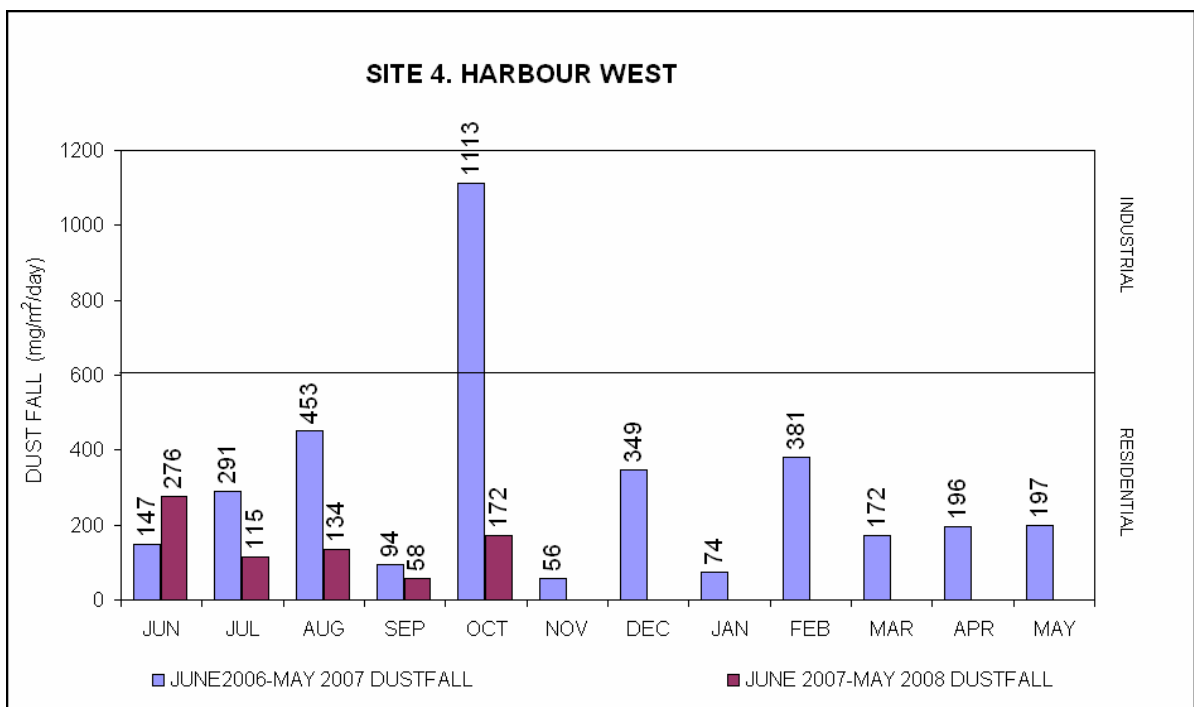
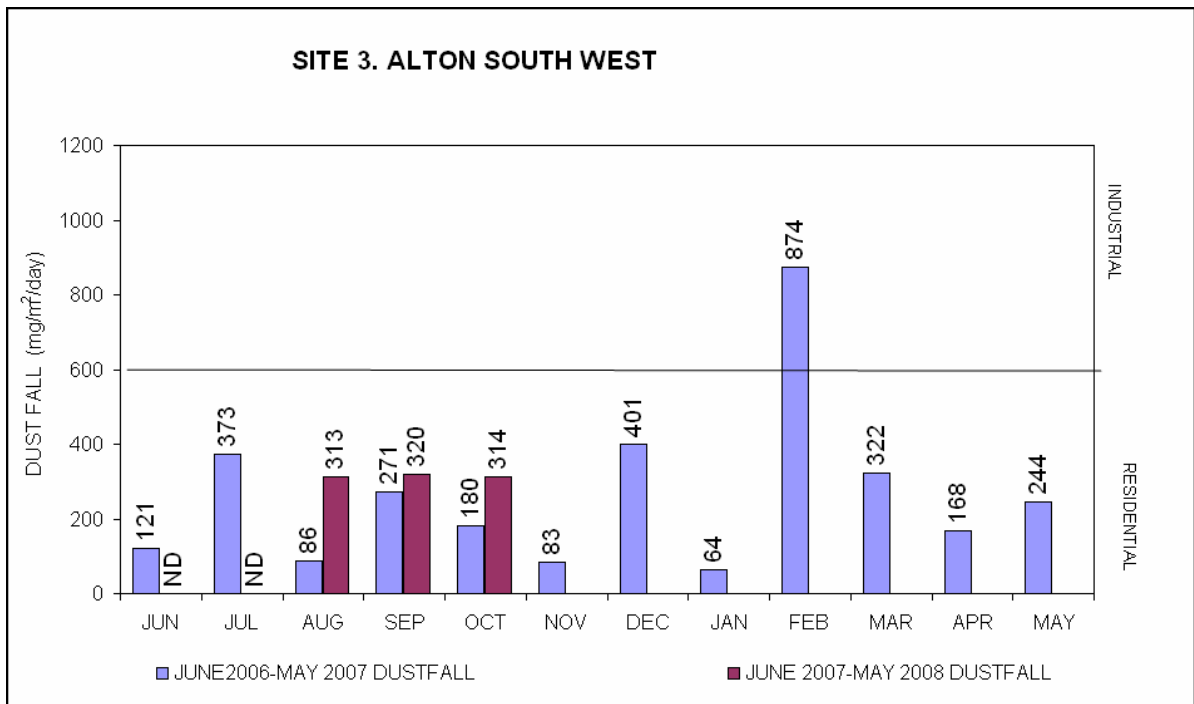
**Figure 1: Graph showing results from all sites October 2007**



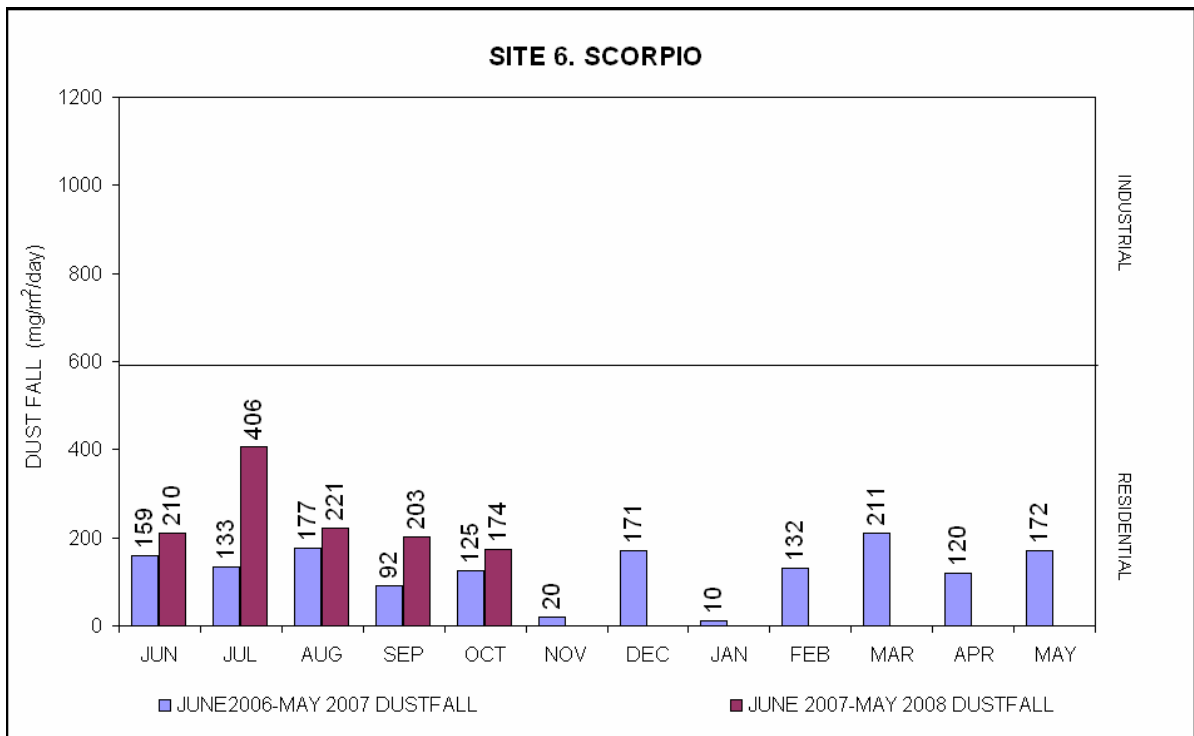
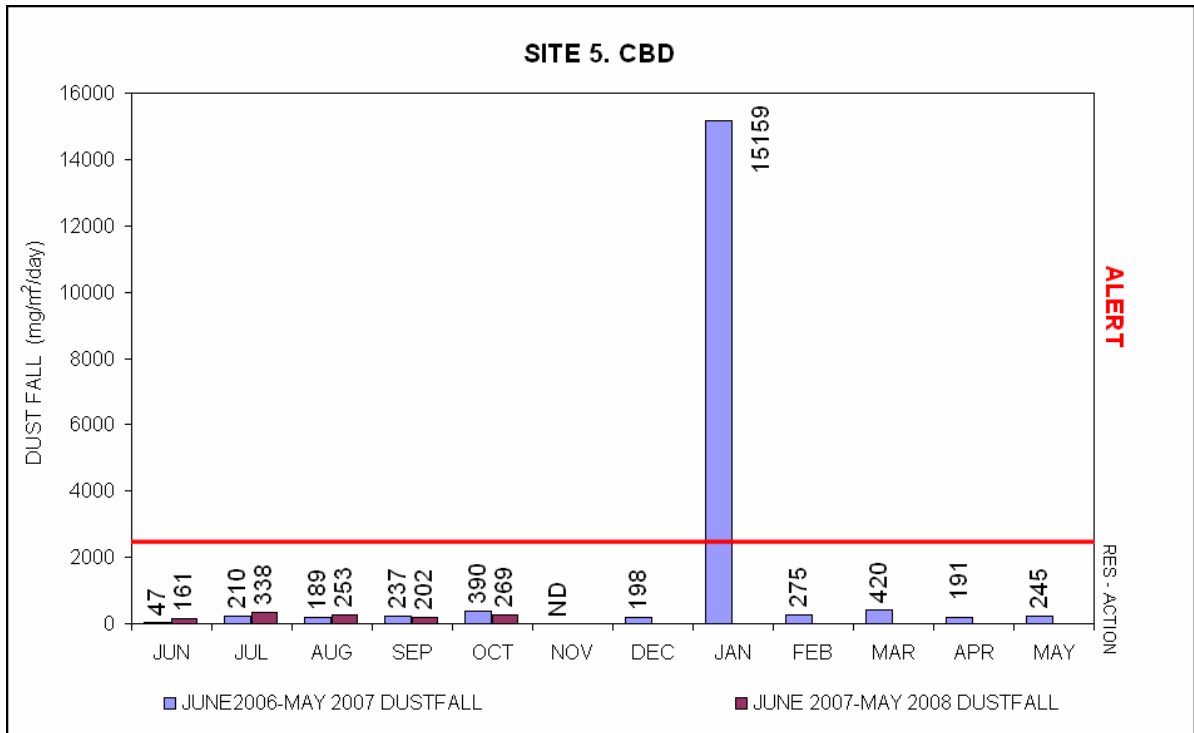
RICHARDS BAY CLEAN AIR ASSOCIATION DUSTFALL MONITORING			Month: October 2007 Sampling period: 21 September – 22 October 2007		
SITE DESCRIPTION	SITE No.	FILTER CODE	NETT MASS (mg)	No. DAYS	DUST FALLOUT (mg/m <sup>2</sup> /day)
Brackenham	1	RBCAA 07/184	70	31	99
SAPS Garage	2	RBCAA 07/185	97	31	138
Alton South West	3	RBCAA 07/186	220	31	314
Harbour West	4	RBCAA 07/187	121	31	172
CBD(Municipal office)	5	RBCAA 07/188	189	31	269
Scorpio	6	RBCAA 07/189	123	31	174
Alton fire station	7	RBCAA 07/190	85	31	122
Nseleni Municipal office	8	RBCAA 07/191	221	31	314
Empangeni police station	9	RBCAA 07/192	61	31	87
Felixton Village	10	RBCAA 07/193	38	31	54
Arboretum	11	RBCAA 07/194	96	31	137
Meerensee School	12	RBCAA 07/195	52	31	74

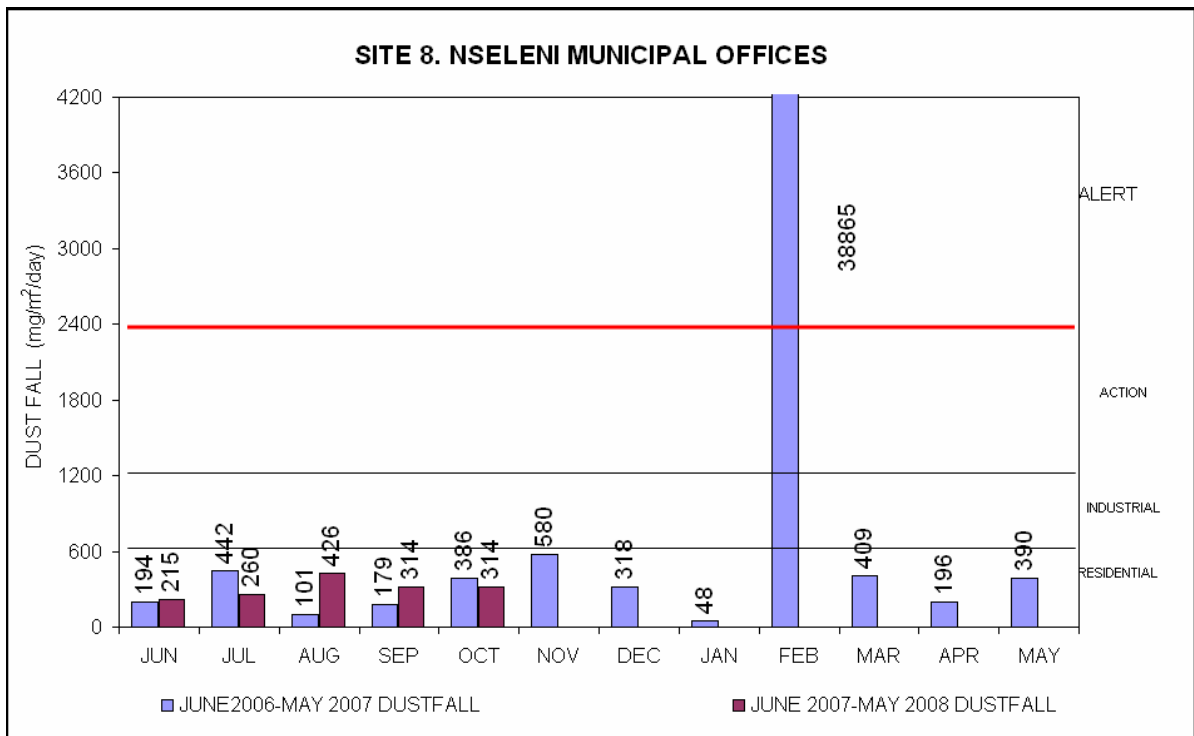
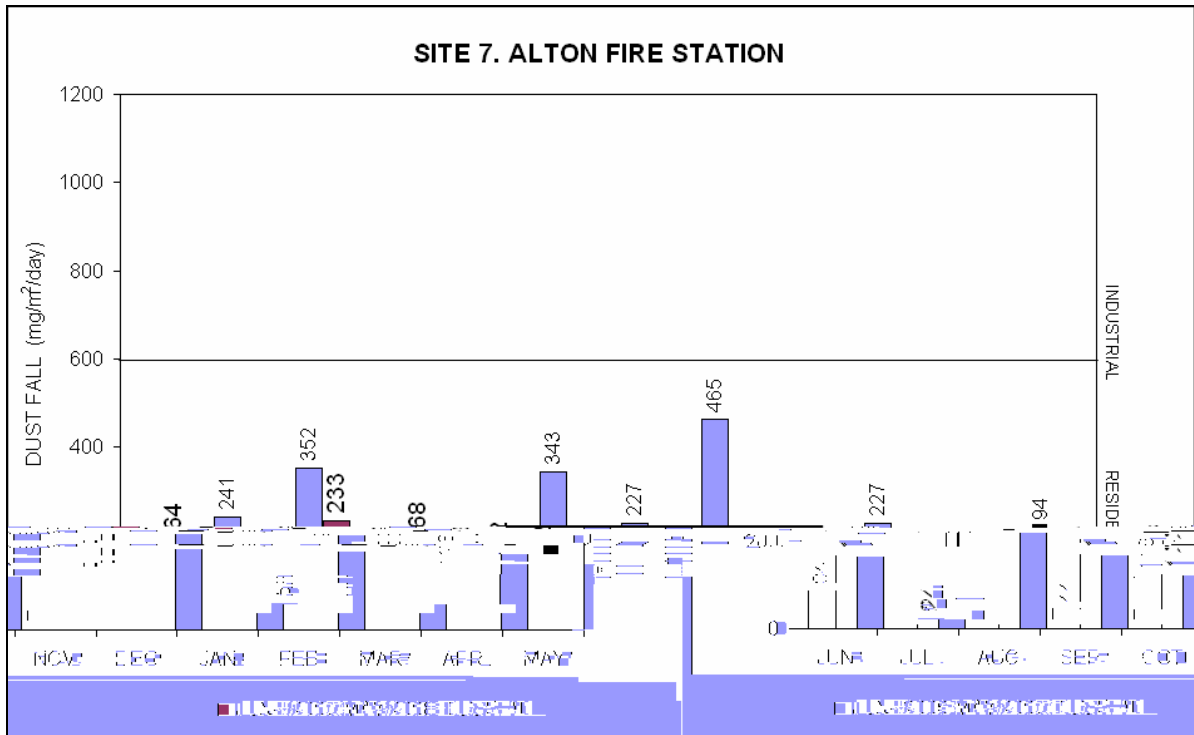
COMMENTS:

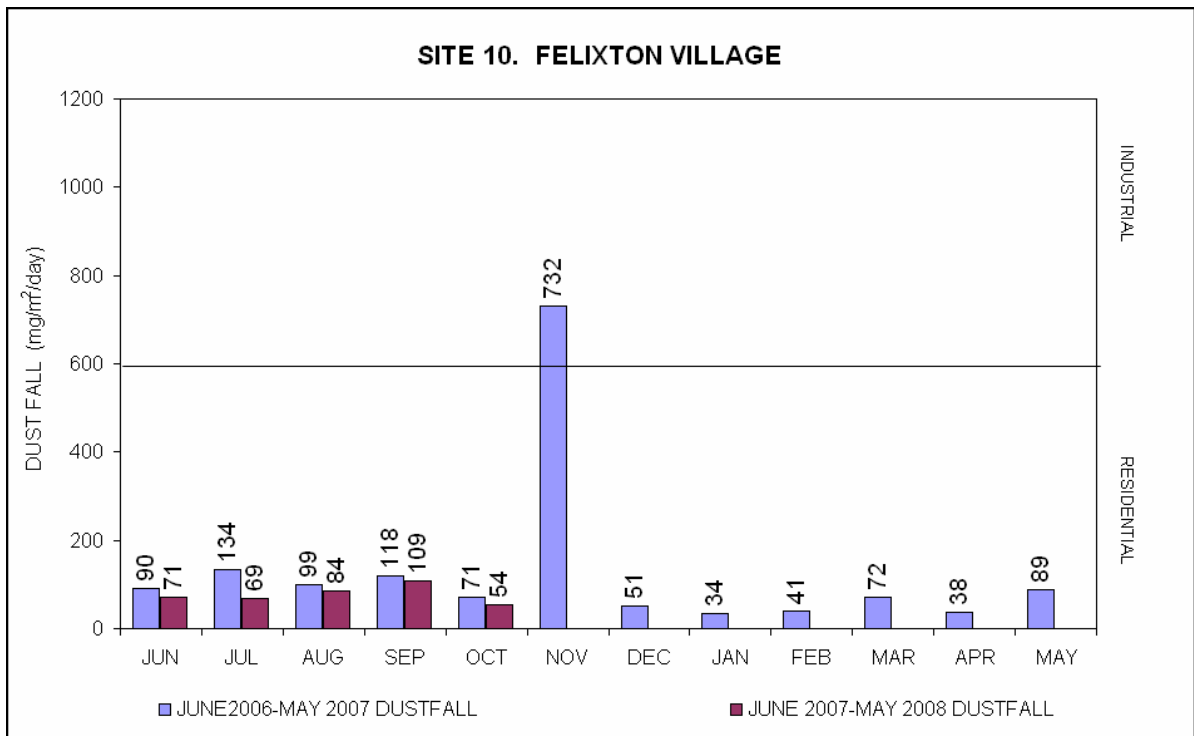
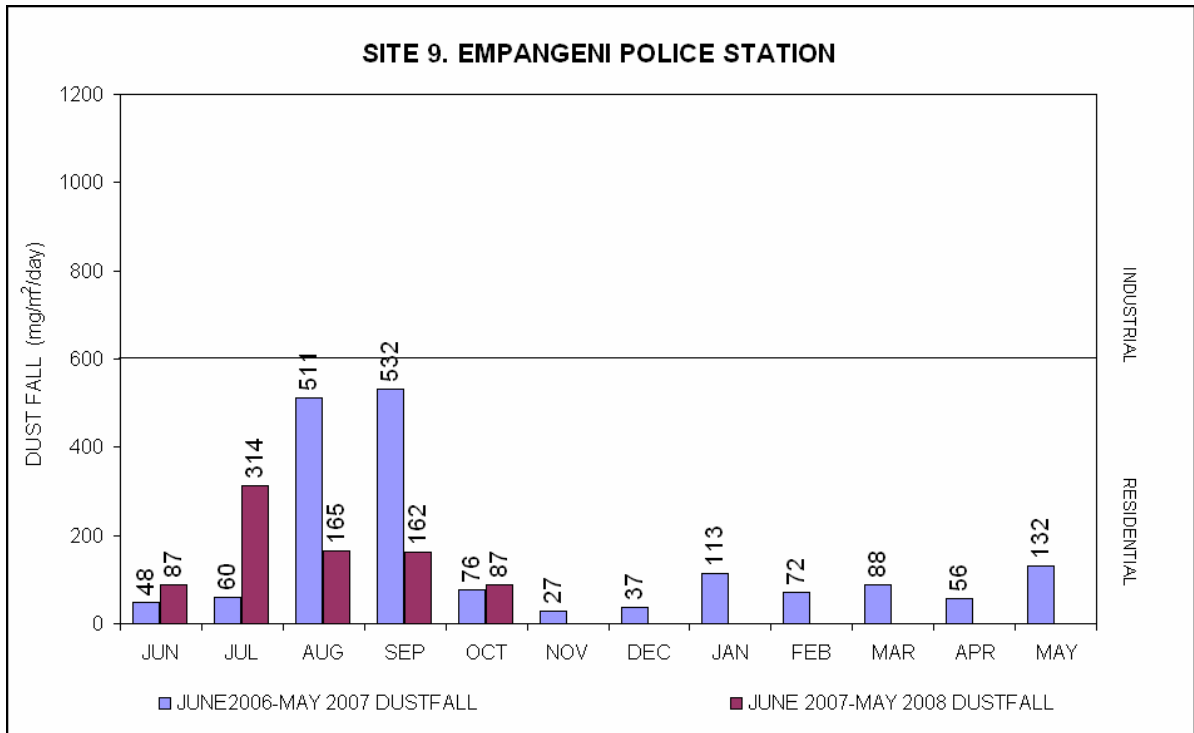


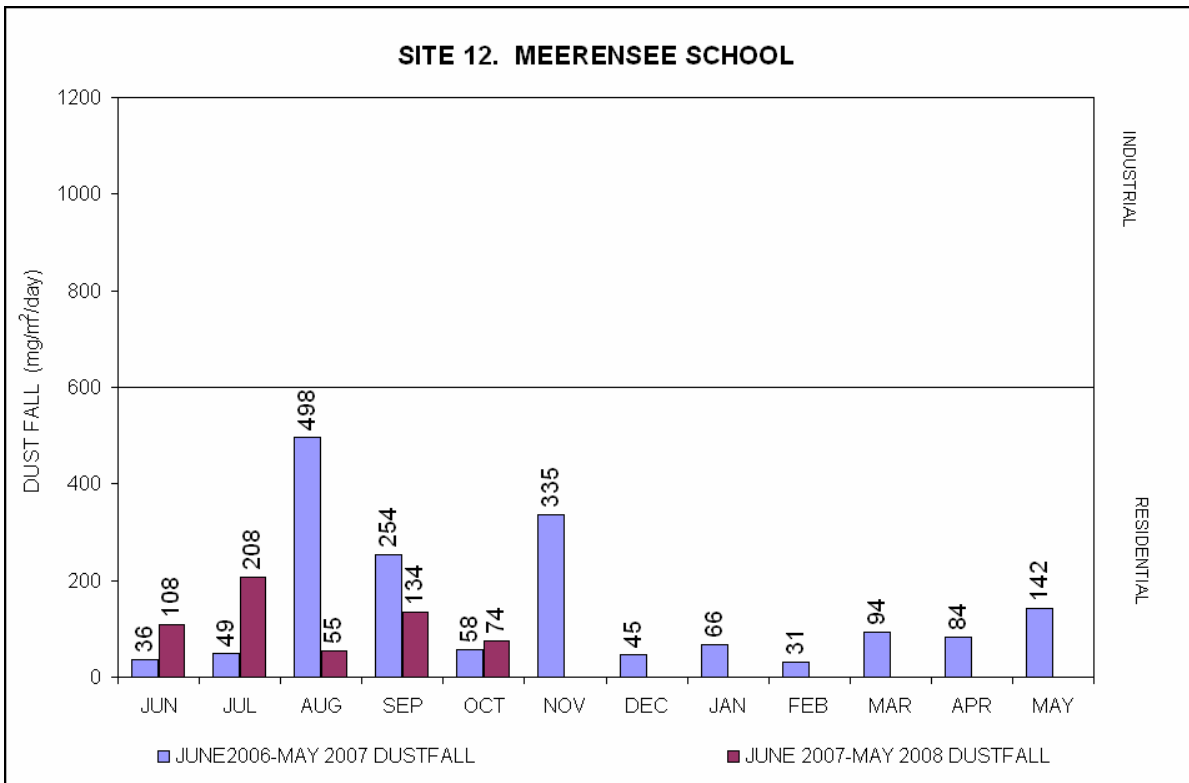
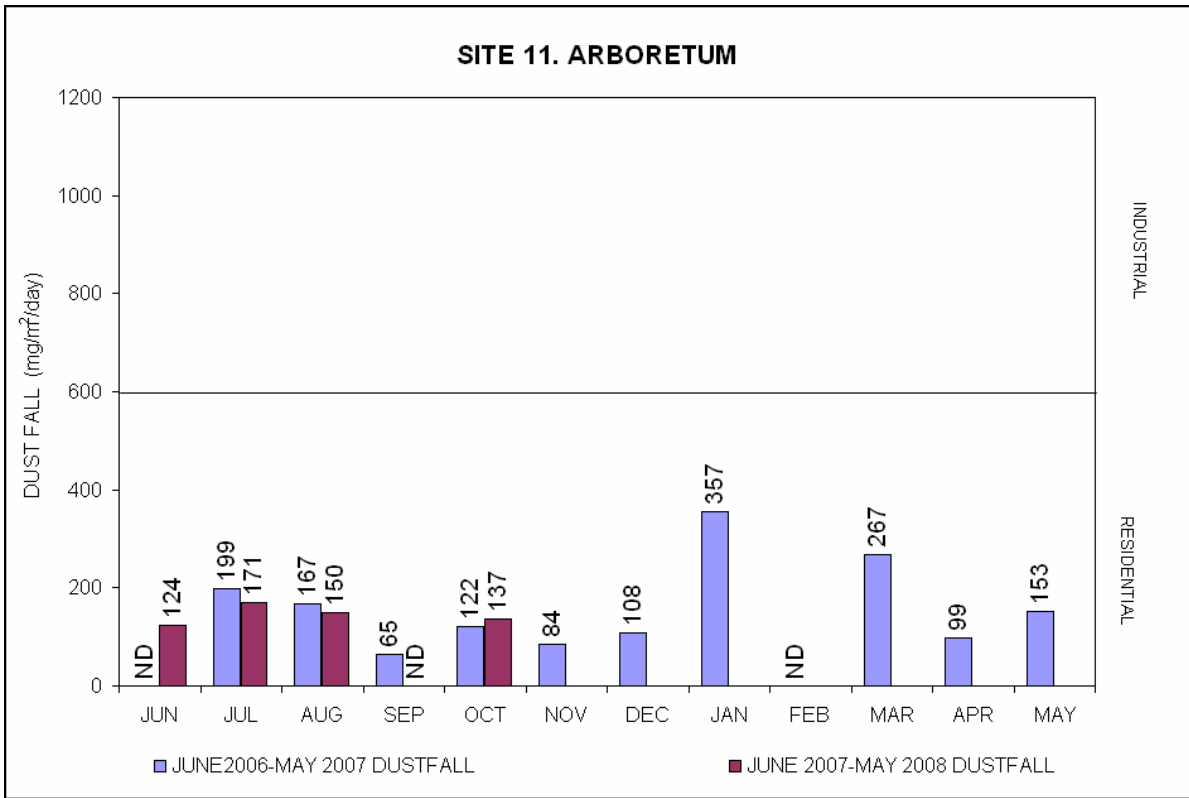












## APPENDIX B

