



## **DEA&DP CIRCULAR NO 0029/2020**

**TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGERS AND CEOs of CAPENATURE AND SANPARKS**

### **NURDLE CLEAN-UP EFFORTS ALONG AFFECTED SECTIONS OF COASTLINE**

Nurdles (small plastic packaging pellets) have been washing up at various beaches along the coast in the south-Western Cape region. This incident of nurdle pollution is being investigated by the South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA).

A number of municipalities and members of the public, through NGOs and volunteer groups, have been conducting nurdle clean-up campaigns in the affected areas. Their efforts are greatly acknowledged and encouraged. A technical guide on the techniques for manual clean-up of nurdles on beaches is attached for your reference, guidance and distribution.

Spill Tech has been appointed to assist in the nurdle clean-up operations by P&I Associate (Pty) Ltd, on behalf of their clients, while the SAMSA investigation is still being concluded. Spill Tech is also required to conduct clean-up of nurdles along affected coastal areas, carry out inspections of nurdle sightings along the coast and store all collected nurdles until a waste management decision has been agreed upon by authorities and the responsible party. It is therefore urged that nurdles collected should not be recycled until a reconciliation has been completed. Spill Tech is currently deployed along various identified hotspot locations from False Bay, eastwards towards Plettenberg Bay.

A reporting app has been developed for the reporting of nurdle sightings and the link is as follows:

<https://form.jotform.com/203102207622337>

You are kindly requested to use this link for reporting, to assist in the information gathering and monitoring of the nurdle spill. Please note that this link is meant for government and conservation officials to report on and not members of the public.

Spill Tech will be assisting in the collection and drop-off of all nurdles and associated packaging at a number of collection points. A list of these drop off points is attached and all nurdles collected so far should be kept ready for pick up by Spill Tech.

Further information regarding collection points and arrangements for pick-up of nurdles can be obtained through the Spill Tech's 24/7 contact number **063 404 2128**. This number is also contactable through WhatsApp.

Thank you for your assistance in helping to curtail the movement and also enabling the collection of the nurdles causing pollution along our coastal zones.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Piet van Zyl', with a horizontal line underneath the signature.

**PIET VAN ZYL**  
**HEAD OF DEPARTMENT**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING**

**DATE:** 2 December 2020