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Committee Environment Committee
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Pollution Control Report for the period 22 May to 12 July 2004

1. Purpose

To report on incident response, investigation and audit work undertaken by Greater Wellington's Pollution Control Team during the reporting period.

2. Background

The Resource Investigations Department provides proactive and responsive services to combat environmental pollution in the Western Wellington region. These pollution control initiatives are summarised below:

- 24-hour Incident Response, which deals with pollution complaints, environmental incidents and alleged non-compliance with the regional plans.
- *Take Charge*, a pollution prevention programme, aimed at improving the environmental performance of small to medium sized industry.
- Special Projects, which include the development of resource materials, or targeted investigations to establish baseline conditions, track trends, and characterise environmental problems.
- Selected Land Use Register, a database of sites in the region where hazardous activities/industries are known or suspected to have been present, and may have resulted in site contamination. This database is maintained in accordance with proposed guidelines issued by the Ministry for the Environment (MfE).

3. Strategic context

Greater Wellington's Pollution Control activities give effect to the following Take 10 targets:

By 2013:

- reported incidents will be reduced by half of 2003 levels;
- 80% of businesses surveyed have waste reduction initiatives in place;
- the water quality of our five most polluted streams improves;
- there will be no significant deterioration of water quality in our key rivers and streams;
- there will be no overall deterioration in the health of our soils.

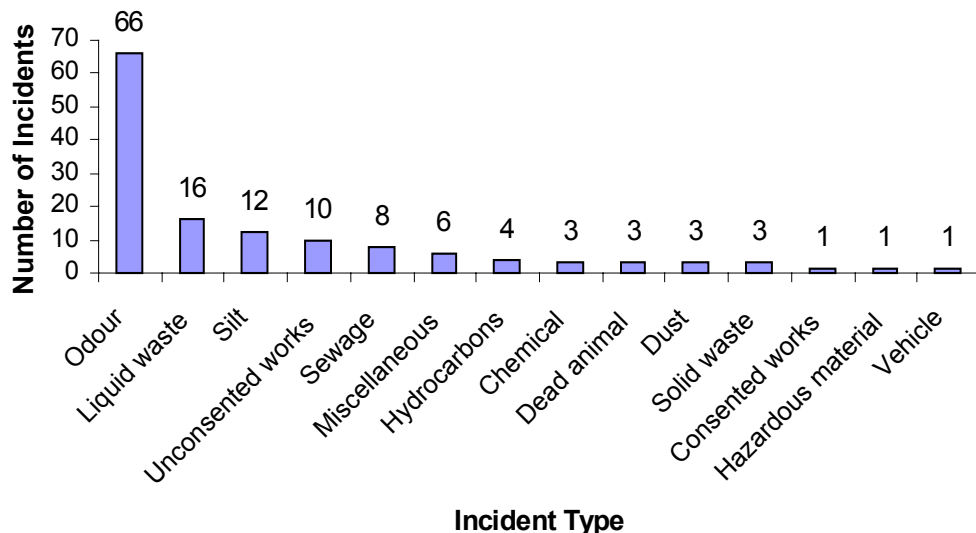
4. Incidents

4.1 Incident summary

A total of 138 incidents were recorded during this reporting period, as summarised in Figure 1. Further information is provided in Attachment 1.

The majority of incidents were associated with odour. Complaints about odours from Carey's Gully were more prevalent than any other odour source. Complaints from the Taylor Preston meat works are fewer than expected, due to the cessation of rendering and the commissioning of a new bio-filter.

Figure 1: Summary of Incidents 22 May to 12 July 2004



The most significant incidents that occurred during this period are summarised below:

- Multiple discharges of wastewater from concrete cutting/construction operations at sites around Wellington central. Corrective action was taken with individuals and the Pollution Control Team is looking at preparing educational materials for this industry.

- A truck driver in Upper Hutt intentionally discharged 70 litres of petrol to the stormwater network after inadvertently filling the diesel tank with petrol. Investigation continuing.
- Unauthorised addition to a structure in the bed of a stream in Ohariu Gorge. A joint approach is being planned with Wellington City Council to remove or legalise the structure.
- Cleanfill operations in Wainuiomata and Porirua both involved the un-consented diversion of streams and bulk earthworks. Investigations continuing.

4.2 Response summary

The time between receiving an incoming complaint and reaching the source of the complaint (response time) is used as a performance indicator for the incident response service. Table 1 shows that the officers from both the Consents Management Department and the Pollution Control Team largely achieved target response times during this reporting period, although the mean response time was slower than the target level. This was due to officers receiving multiple incident notifications, and the long travel time to incidents in northern Kapiti.

Table 1: Response time summary

Target response time	Mean response time
Red (60 minutes)	72 minutes
Yellow (24 hours)	6 hours
Blue (30 days)	8 days

4.3 Enforcement action

Table 2 summarises enforcement action taken during this reporting period.

Table 2: Summary of enforcement action

Advisory Notices	8
Infringement Notices	3
Abatement Notices	1
Enforcement Orders	0
Prosecutions [information's laid]	2

Advisory Notices were predominantly issued requiring an activity to cease and the affected area cleaned up.

Infringement notices were served on Higgins Concrete Limited for the discharge of process water to the Owhiro Stream, Orica Chemicals for the discharge of soda ash to land at the Centre Port facility, and Brooklyn Holdings Ltd for the discharge of silt from a residential subdivision.

An abatement notice was served on Higgins Concrete Limited requiring the discharge of process water into Owhiro Stream to cease, and requiring a Water Management Plan to be submitted to the Council.

Information's have been laid before the Environment Court against Allied Concrete for the discharge of process water to the stormwater system, and NZ Oil Services Ltd for the uncontrolled discharge of hydrocarbons to the Hutt River.

The Pollution Control Team is currently considering regulatory options for several other environmental incidents that have occurred in recent months.

5. Take Charge

Pollution Control Officers continue to compile information about industrial and commercial areas around the region, to identify potential future participants in the *Take Charge* Programme, and to contribute background data for environmental contamination surveys.

6. Special projects

The Pollution Control Team completed four proactive odour-monitoring exercises at Carey's Gully and two at Taylor Preston during this reporting period. Preliminary findings were presented at Wellington City Council's Carey's Gully odour workshop on 30 June 2004.

The Muddy Waters' paper is to be presented to the region's territorial authorities over the coming months. The presentations are designed to increase levels of awareness and co-operation between territorial authority staff and GWRC with respect to the management of silt discharges from subdivision sites.

Pollution Control Officers investigated 105 properties at random in the Wellington City area, to identify possible cross-connections between sewerage and stormwater networks. Approximately 14% of properties demonstrated potential defects, which have been reported to Wellington City Council for their attention.

A review of stormwater discharge consent conditions has been completed, and revealed that data collected as a requirement of consent could contribute to SOE monitoring.

The project identifying contaminant sources impacting on an unnamed tributary of the Waiwhetu Stream in Gracefield has been completed.

Pollution control memoranda of understanding (MOU's) which clarify jurisdictions and responsibilities for incident response activities are being developed with TA's throughout the western region. Discussions are at an advanced stage with both Wellington City Council and the Hutt City Council.

The Pollution Control Team initiated a review of Emergency Response Plans in place at the Port of Wellington, which was supported by the Hazardous Substances Technical Liaison Committee. This initiative was in response to several recent hazardous substance emergencies at the Port.

7. Contaminated sites

Ministry for the Environment has released Contaminated Land Management Guideline #4 for consultation. A workshop is planned for Territorial Authorities to prepare a response.

The mapping of old sheep dip sites in selected areas of Wellington City and Porirua City continues.

8. Communication

No further public communication is necessary for this report.

9. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 1. receive this report; and*
- 2. note the contents.*

Report prepared by:

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Attachment 1: Incident Response Summary