



Report 04.488
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Committee Environment Committee
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Pollution Control Report for the period 13 July to 20 August 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.

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 six 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

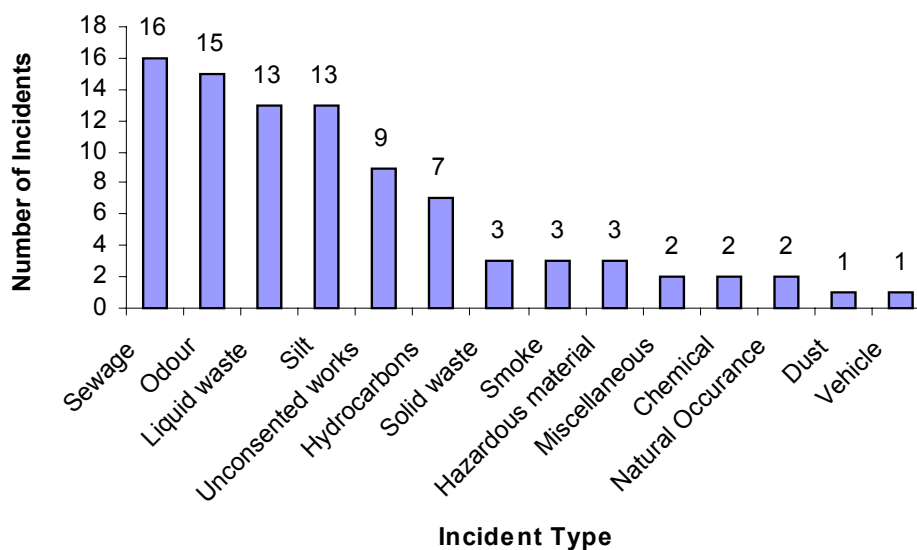
4.1 Incident summary

A total of 90 incidents were recorded during this reporting period, as summarised in Figure 1. Further information about specific incidents is provided in Attachment 1.

The predominant incident class was sewage overflow, with 16 events occurring throughout the region in response to rainfall events in August. The number of silt discharges to surface waters from residential subdivisions and industrial sites also rose as a consequence of these storms.

There was a significant decline in the number of reported odour incidents, due to a combination of weather conditions, operational changes at the Taylor Preston meat works and our pro-active monitoring programme.

Figure 1: Summary of Incidents 13 July to 20 August 2004



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

- Multiple discharges of silt from Horokiwi and Waitohu quarries. The Pollution Control Team is currently working with both site managers to improve their silt control provisions.
- Chronic sewage discharge to Speedy Stream, Kelson, after a slip during the February floods damaged the sewer main. Remedial work is currently underway.

- A top dressing plane from Wareham Air-spray deposited fertiliser over an Industrial park in Grenada North. Regulatory action is currently being considered.
- Silt discharges from two Johnsonville subdivisions resulted in discoloration of the Ngauranga and Stebbings Streams. Officers are currently discussing the adequacy of silt control provisions with Truebridge Callendar Beach.
- Continued unconsented composting activities by Sutherland & Russell Limited, at an Upper Hutt industrial estate. Enforcement action pending. An abatement notice has been issued requiring compliance with the Regional Plan rules.

4.2 Response summary

The time between being notified of an incident and arriving on site (response time) is used as a performance indicator for the incident response service. Table 1 shows that the officers achieved their target response times during this reporting period.

Table 1: Response time summary

| Target response time | Mean response time |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Red (60 minutes) | 52 minutes |
| Yellow (24 hours) | 5 hours |
| Blue (30 days) | 3.5 days |

4.3 Enforcement action

Table 2 summarises enforcement action taken during this reporting period.

Table 2: Summary of enforcement action

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Advisory Notices | 5 |
| Infringement Notices | 2 |
| Abatement Notices | 3 |
| Enforcement Orders | 0 |
| Prosecutions [information's laid] | 0 |

Infringement notices were served on:

- Allied Concrete Limited for the discharge of process water to an unnamed tributary of the Hutt river.
- Ray Piper Panelbeaters & Spraypainters Limited for the discharge of an offensive and objectionable odour to air.
- Brooklyn Holdings Ltd for the discharge of silt from a residential subdivision.

Abatement notices were served on:

- Allied Concrete Limited to cease the discharge of process water to land and to submit a site Water Management Plan.
- Ray Piper Panelbeaters & Spraypainters Limited to cease further non-compliant discharges to air from coating processes.

A decision was made not to pursue a prosecution or enforcement action in response to repeated discharges of sewage from the Moa Point short outfall, given the high level undertaking by Wellington City Council and United Water International to address causal factors identified at the plant and contributing catchment.

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 is currently undertaking the following special projects:

- preparing a database of septic tanks in the region, to identify those near streams and watercourses, and to use this information in future pollution source investigations.
- surveying dairy farms in the region to determine whether resource consents are held for discharges of dairy wastes.
- Developing a spill response protocol for use by Territorial Authorities and emergency response organisations dealing with hazardous substance spills onto roads and other paved areas.

7. **Communication**

No further public communication is necessary for this report.

8. **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Committee:

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

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Report approved by:

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Attachment 1: Incident Response Summary