



Report 09.421
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Committee Regulatory Committee
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Divisional Manager's report

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about activities that promote the sustainable management of the region's natural and physical resources by overseeing the Council's regulatory responsibilities in relation to resource management and harbour navigation and safety.

2. Managers' reports

Managers' reports from the Environmental Policy, Environmental Monitoring and Investigations, Environmental Regulation and Harbours Departments follow as **Attachment 1**.

3. Ministerial review of PM₁₀ regulation in the air quality standards

On 10 June 2009, Environment Minister Dr Nick Smith announced a review of the national environmental standards for air quality (air quality standards). The review will focus on the regulations in the air quality standards relating to particulate matter less than 10 microns (PM₁₀) in diameter. Specifically, the review is addressing three issues:

- the number of permitted annual exceedances of the standard
- the achievability of the 2013 timeline for compliance with the standard
- general compliance aspects of the air quality standards, in particular the significant implications for industry because, after 2013

The review of the PM₁₀ standard has been favourably received by Greater Wellington officers as it has the potential to greatly clarify some existing issues inherent in the standard, and to allow a far more pragmatic approach to managing airsheds that may not comply with the existing standard come 2013.

In brief, while officers are generally comfortable with the annual number of allowable exceedences remaining at 1 per year, clarification is sought as to make clear that this applies to a calendar year. There is also comfort that the 2013 deadline for compliance is appropriate, as long as there are no punitive resource consent penalties on industry should the standard not be met, or indeed any other financial penalties for failure to meet the deadline. A more collaborative approach in the preparation of action plans for non-complying air sheds, that involves both central and local government, and the effected community, is favoured.

Greater Wellington has responded to the review and a copy of the letter provided to the Ministry for the Environment can be found as **Attachment 2**.

4. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. *Receives the report; and*
2. *Notes the content.*

Report prepared by:



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Attachment 1: Departmental Manager's reports

Attachment 2: Letter to Phil Barry, Chair, Technical Advisory Group on: Greater Wellington submission on ministerial review of PM₁₀ regulations in the air quality standards