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Committee       Environment Committee  
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## Pollution control report for the period 24 February to 7 April 2003

### 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:

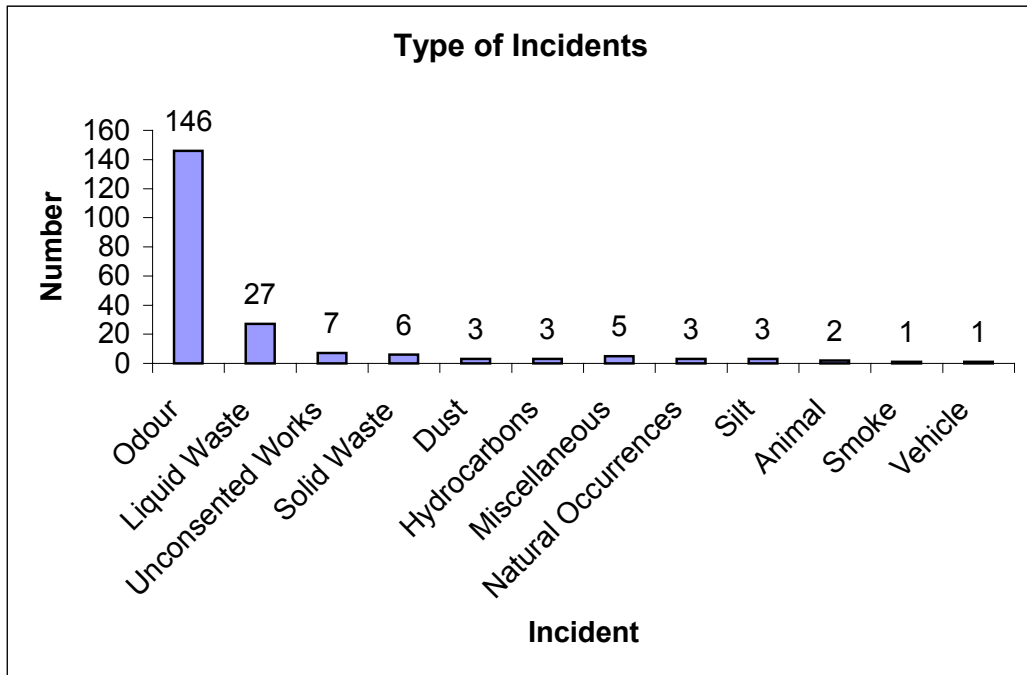
- **24-hour Incident Response**, which deals with pollution complaints, environmental incidents and alleged non-compliance with the regional plans.
- **Take Charge**, a pollution prevention programme, aimed at improving the environmental performance of small to medium sized industry.
- **Special Projects**,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

### 3. Incidents

A total of 324 complaints were recorded during this reporting period, these complaints came from 207 separate incidents. The types of incidents recorded

during this reporting period are summarised in Figure 1. Further information can be found in attachment 1.

**Figure 1. Type of Incident Complaints**



The majority of complaints were odour related, and attributed in the main to industrial sites in Wellington (a meat-works in Ngauranga Gorge and facilities at the Carey’s Gully complex). The most significant incidents that occurred during this period were:

- A blockage in the sewerage system at a new sub-division in Newlands, Wellington, resulted in a discharge of sewage into Wellington Harbour. Corrective action was taken by the Territorial Authority to clear the blockage and minimise the discharge.
- There were a number of individual discharges of a ‘milky white’ substance into the Waiwhetu Stream, Lower Hutt. There were a number of suspected sources identified and investigation is being carried out in conjunction with Hutt City Council staff.

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 Consents Management and the Pollution Control Team achieved a high level of responsiveness during this reporting period.

**Table 1. Response Time Performance Summary**

<b>Target Response Time</b>	<b>Average Response Time</b>	<b>Conformance Level</b>
Red (60 minutes)	50 minutes	98 %
Yellow (24 hours)	7 hours	100 %
Blue (30 days)	1 day	100 %

#### **4. Take Charge**

*Take Charge* visits are being well received by the Oil Industry. All the oil companies have been approached and are supporting the programme and this is being reflected in the positive attitude by Service Station Operators. Follow up visits are being scheduled to explain any findings and outline any recommendations.

Of the 137 letters that were originally sent out, 47 Service Stations have responded and taken up the programme. Twenty five of those have been visited so far, with an average of five service stations being visited per week. Feedback so far has been encouraging.

#### **5. Special projects**

- Water Shortage Directions were issued, pursuant to section 329 of the Resource Management Act 1991, for Waikanae River on March 21 and Waitohu Stream on 24 February. Greater Wellington Pollution Control Staff undertook surveillance monitoring for breaches of the directions during the notice periods.
- The content and format of the first brochure in a pollution solution series for stormwater is at the final stages of consultation with Greater Wellington and territorial authority staff. The Pollution Control team has been working on this with enforcement officers from territorial authorities. The target audience for this brochure is householders. By Friday 4 April, Masterton, Carterton, South Wairarapa and Kapiti Coast District Councils and Wellington City Council had given their feedback on the text and agreed to their logo being printed on the brochure. We expect to have the brochure printed and ready for use by the end of April.
- The Response Manual for Sewage Discharges is being revised in collaboration with Hutt Valley Health and Territorial Authorities. The first draft has gone for review by the Regional Health Authorities. The process should be completed by the end of April.
- A project has been developed to characterise ‘background’ concentrations of common contaminants in soils across the Region. The project will assist in the classification of contaminated sites and the setting of acceptable levels of contaminants during a contaminated site remediation. The

contract will be awarded and the project started before the end of April and is programmed for completion before the end of June 2003.

## **6. Selected land use register**

The validation of the entries on the Selected Land Use Register has now been completed. There are now 1483 sites currently recorded on the register of which 48 could not be verified from local/regional council records or readily available sources of information.

## **7. Enforcement action**

The following is a summary of enforcement action taken by the Pollution Control Team during this reporting period.

### **Infringement notices**

- SGS Australasia Wool Testing, Kilbirine, Wellington City, for the discharge of noxious odours to air.
- Winston Aggregates, Waikanae, Kapiti Coast, for breach of the water shortage direction for the Waikanae River.
- Spartan Engineering Company Limited, Rongotai, Wellington City, for the discharge of noxious odours to air beyond their property boundary.

### **Abatement notices**

- Jamieson Family Trust, Pukerua Bay, Porirua, requiring the removal of unconsented works in the bed of a stream.
- Ken Jackson, Wainuiomata, Lower Hutt, requiring remediation around unconsented works in the bed of a stream.
- Ken Collings, Petone, Hutt City, requiring the removal and correct disposal of non-cleanfill material from cleanfill.
- John Moynihan, Whitemans Valley, Upper Hutt requiring the removal of unconsented works on the bed of a stream.
- Spartan Engineering Company Limited, Rongotai, Wellington City, requiring the cessation of the discharge of noxious odour to air beyond their property boundary.

## **8. Communication**

No further public communication is necessary for this report.

## 9. Recommendations

*It is recommended that the Committee:*

1. *receive the report: and*
2. *note the contents.*

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

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**Attachment 1:** Incident Response Summary