



Report 03.555
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Committee Environment Committee
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Pollution Control Report for the period 9 August to 19 September 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, 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.

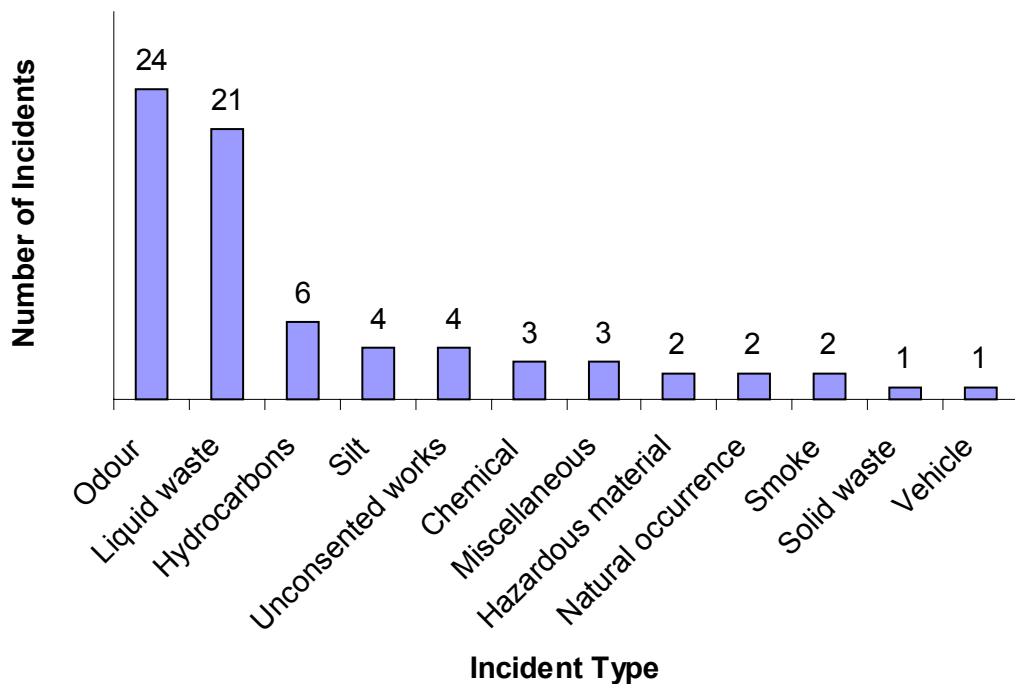
By 2013

- reported pollution incidents will be reduced by half;
- 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 streams and rivers.

4. Incidents

A total of 73 incidents were recorded during this reporting period, as summarised in Figure 1. Further information about these incidents can be found in Attachment 1.

Figure 1: Summary of Incidents (9 August to 19 September 2003)



The majority of incidents were associated with odour and liquid waste (33% and 29% respectively). Most of the incidents relating to odour were attributed to a meat-works in Ngauranga Gorge, the Carey's Gully complex, a fish rendering plant in Seaview and odour from miscellaneous panel-beating workshops. Discharges of liquid wastes were associated predominantly with overflows from the sewerage network.

The most significant incidents that occurred during this period were:

- Damage to Ivey Bay beach from vehicular movements. The investigation is continuing.
- Dumping of fill onto the floodway of the Hutt River and adjacent wetland at Te Marua speedway in Upper Hutt. The investigation is continuing.
- Untreated sewage overflow from a defective sewer running adjacent to State Highway 1 opposite Horokiwi Road. The investigation is continuing.

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 largely achieved target response times during this reporting period.

Table 1: Response time summary

Target response time	Average response time	Conformance level
Red (60 minutes)	32 minutes	95 %
Yellow (24 hours)	5.4 hours	100 %
Blue (30 days)	2.7 days	100 %

5. Take Charge

Take Charge assessments for service stations are approaching completion, with 94% of all service stations in the west of the Region having now been visited. The following issues have been encountered; a general lack of knowledge about site history, soil and groundwater contamination via drainage soakaways, and insufficient stormwater protection (many of the older sites lack oil:water separators).

The major oil companies have responded positively to *Take Charge* assessments of their franchise sites.

Once service stations are completed, the focus of the *Take Charge* programme will move on to automotive shops, panel beaters and follow up visits to quarries.

6. Special projects

The Pollution Control Team has introduced a protocol for the issuing of retrospective consents. The protocol is attached as Attachment 2. The main point of the protocol is that it would be appropriate to seek a retrospective consent if the on going effects of the activity or structure are minor, and the applicant wishes to legalise the activity or structure.

The protocol was developed in conjunction with the Resource Policy and Consents Management Departments.

7. Contaminated sites

- A trenching activity proposed for Fort Dorset, a site included on the Selected Land Use Register (SLUR), may require resource consent, unless the consultants provide evidence that the activity complies with Rule 21 of the Regional Discharges to Land Plan.
- Pack & Save Limited are investigating the viability of replacing staffed with unstaffed service stations. The consultants are to provide further information regarding the redevelopment of a service station site in Petone.

8. Enforcement action

Enforcement action taken during this reporting period is summarised in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Summary of enforcement action

Advisory Notices	4
Infringement Notices	3
Abatement Notices	3
Enforcement Orders	0
Prosecutions	0
Confirmed Breach of Resource Consent*	1

* Referred to Consents Management Department

An earthworks contractor and landowner were both issued with infringement notices for earthworks that impacted on the Owhiro Stream. The landowner also received an abatement notice directing him to remove material from the stream channel.

A sump-cleaning contractor was issued with an infringement notice for dumping liquid waste into a stormwater sump in Petone.

Anglian Water International (NZ) Limited and Wellington City Council were both issued with abatement notices following the discharge of dilute untreated sewage into Lavander Bay from the short outfall of Moa Point Wastewater Treatment Plant.

9. Communication

No further public communication is necessary for this report.

10. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

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

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Attachment 1: Incident Response Summary

Attachment 2: Retrospective Consent Protocol