

Report 03.671
Date 7 November 2003
File ENV/17/02/01

Committee Environment
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Pollution Control Report for the period 20 September to 31 October 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:

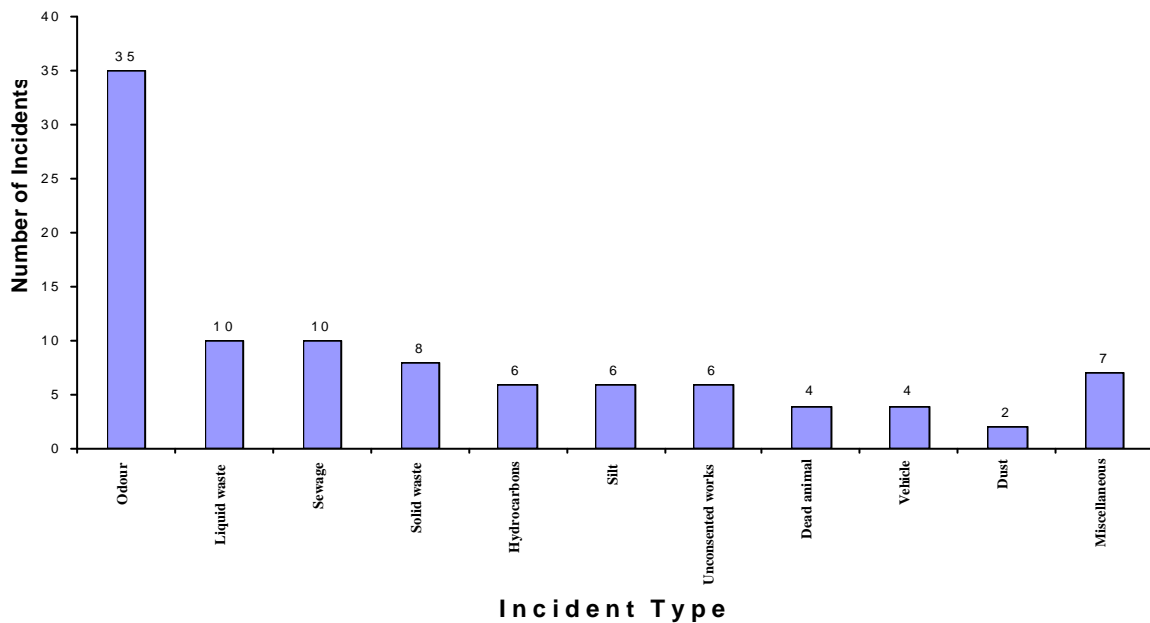
By 2013:

- reported 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

A total of 98 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 (20 September - 31 October 2003)



The majority of incidents were associated with odour and liquid waste. Most incidents relating to odour were attributed to a meat-works in Ngauranga Gorge and the Carey's Gully complex.

Discharges of liquid wastes were associated predominantly with overflows from the sewerage network. There has been an increase during this period of incidents relating to solid waste from the illegal dumping of non-cleanfill materials.

The reported figures now incorporate incidents from consented activities that are in breach of their resource consents.

The most significant incidents that occurred during this period were:

- There are continuing occurrences of illegal dumping of non-cleanfill materials at a property in Mangaroa Valley, Upper Hutt. The investigation is ongoing.
- Colgate Palmolive Ltd. had a significant loss of hot liquid soap product through the factory roof resulting in a discharge to land and the Petone foreshore via the stormwater system. The discharge was well contained with the cleanup supervised by Pollution Control Officers.
- Onyx Group Ltd. is under investigation to determine any requirements for resource consent after odour complaints relating to their operation. This investigation has been passed to Consents Management. Investigations into discharges to land observed during inspection are ongoing.
- Two significant sewage overflows were reported in this period. Both involved the Moa Point wastewater treatment plant discharging raw sewage at the short outfall to Lavender Bay. The investigation is continuing.
- Preparation of an exposed aggregate driveway in Ngaio resulted in the discharge of highly alkaline wash waters into the adjacent stream. The building contractor was required to remove sludge deposits from the stream.

4.1 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 Consents Management and the Pollution Control Team achieved target response times during this reporting period.

Table 1: Response time summary

Target response time	Average response time	Conformance Level
Red (60 minutes)	59 minutes	77 %
Yellow (24 hours)	5.3 hours	100 %
Blue (30 days)	3.6 days	100 %

5. Take Charge

Take Charge assessments of service stations in the western Region are now mostly complete, Arrangements are currently being made to assess service stations in the Wairarapa.

In the western Region *Take Charge* is now being applied to motor mechanic activities, with 10% of targeted sites visited. The following issues were encountered; a general lack of RMA understanding, poor knowledge of site history and stormwater protection.

6. Special projects

The Pollution Control Team has taken part in a Wetland identification seminar with plans for field training visits.

7. Contaminated sites

The Pollution Control Team have been providing feedback to MfE on a series of contaminated site management guidelines. These include:

- Reporting on contaminated sites in NZ;
- Contaminated sites environmental acceptance criteria;
- Rapid risk screening for contaminated sites;
- Classification and information management protocols for contaminated sites;
- Site investigation and analysis.

8. Enforcement action

Table 2: Summary of enforcement action

Advisory Notices	8
Infringement Notices	0
Abatement Notices	0
Enforcement Orders	0
Prosecutions	1
Confirmed breach of resource consent*	2

*Referred to Consents Management Department

Chatham Island Seafood's Ltd. appealed the infringement and abatement notices for diversion of water from the Orongoronga wetland. This case has now been heard in Court. We are awaiting the outcome.

Advisory notices are continuing to be a useful tool for getting compliance with our regional rules.

9. Communication

No further public communication is necessary for this report.

10. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

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

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

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Attachment 1: Incident Response Summary