

Report to the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee
from Stephen Yeats, Resource Advisor

Annual Discharge to Air Compliance Monitoring

1. Purpose

To report to the Committee the findings of the compliance monitoring carried out on the discharge to air permits.

2. Background

Those discharge to air permits which have an on-going effect on the environment are inspected at least annually to ensure they are complying with consent conditions. The frequency of inspection is set by either the Resource Management Charging Policy (February 1997) or the resource consent conditions. Further inspections may be undertaken as a result of public complaints about the discharge.

3. Inspections 1998/99

There were five consents which were charged for compliance inspections. All were inspected at least once. A report on the inspection was written and sent back to the consent holder after each inspection.

Consent Number	Activity
WAR 980010	Discharge to air from heatset printing press, Masterton
WAR 960096	Discharge to air from JNL mill
WAR 940087	Discharge to air from mushroom composting operation, Parkvale
WAR 940085	Discharge to air from bitumen hot mix plant, Waingawa
WAR 930102	Discharge to air from composting operation, Masterton landfill

4. Discussion

- 4.1 There was an element of non-compliance in only one of the five consents. In this case, the non-compliance was minor, and consisted of failure to provide information. Four of the discharges complied fully with the conditions on the consent.
- 4.2 Despite air pollution complaints making up a large proportion of the complaints the Council deals with, only one of the air complaints related to consented discharge to air activities. Most complaints of air pollution are made about non-consented activities.
- 4.3 The current frequency of inspections is considered appropriate, and should be continued into the next year.

5. Juken Nissho Ltd

- 5.1 The most significant consented discharge to air in the Wairarapa comes from the Juken Nissho plant at Waingawa. The consent was renewed by a notified process in 1998. Since then there have been a number of significant improvements to their discharge to air.
- 5.2 The consent conditions place stringent reporting requirements on the company. Once a month they send in a summary of all discharge to air activities for that month. They have provided this information regularly and without fail.
- 5.3 The main discharge to air through the stack is monitored continuously by computer, and this information is provided in the monthly summary. This means we know exactly how much particulate is discharged at any time throughout the year.
- 5.4 Emissions from the main stack are tested by independent consultants every four months.
- 5.5 The plant has been formally inspected by Council officers regularly since the consent was renewed. Officers have been impressed with the company's attitude and commitment to improvements.
- 5.6 A public meeting was held in October 1998 to discuss the implementation of the consent. All interested parties were invited. Only four parties turned up.
- 5.7 Although there have been numerous complaints from a single complainant about the plant, the only complaints that officers have found to be substantiated are those relating to dust. This issue is still being worked on by both the Council and the company.

6. Implications of the Regional Air Plan

6.2 The proposed Regional Air Quality Management Plan will require resource consent for some activities which were previously permitted. The specific activities involved are:

- Sewerage
- Factory farms (pork and poultry housed in buildings)
- Crematoria
- Some agrichemical spraying
- Vegetable oil processing (eg olive oil)
- Quarries
- Spray Painting using large paint volumes

6.2 This will have significant implications for the number of consents required to be processed and monitored. The Plan is likely to be operative within the next 6-12 months.

7. Recommendation

That the Committee receive the report and note the scope of the proposed Regional Air Quality Management Plan.

Report prepared by

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