



Report: 03.57
Date: 21 February 2003
File: ENV/6/1/5

Committee: Environment
Author: Nigel Corry Account Manager, Consents Management

Proactive odour monitoring - update

1. Purpose

To update the Committee on Consents Management's proactive monitoring of particularly odorous sites in the Western Wellington Region.

2. Background

In October 2002, a report was submitted to the Committee on the rationalisation of our approach to odour complaints. Part of the approach was to 'proactively' monitoring the sites Greater Wellington received the most complaints about. The sites to be proactively monitored were identified as being:

- Taylor Preston abattoir
- The Seaview area (ChemWaste, NZ Fish Products, Nuplex Environmental, Hutt Valley Wastewater Treatment Plant)
- Asphalt Services NZ Limited (Formerly MKL Limited)
- The Careys Gully Complex (Anglian Water, Southern Landfill, Living Earth compost plant)

The proactive monitoring has been undertaken in 4 week cycles. This allowed for three weeks of actual on-site monitoring, followed by a one week review. With the exception of the Careys Gully Complex, proactive monitoring has been undertaken in the periods of October – December 2002, and then the January – March 2003. Careys Gully proactive monitoring commenced in early March 2003.

By 'proactively' monitoring, we hoped to establish the actual effect of odour on the surrounding area, and whether or not operational and infrastructure improvements at some plants over recent time has lead to a reduction in odour. Importantly, this would then identify what odour issues, if any, still exist at these sites.

3. Interim outcomes

Individual reports on each of the four sites that are being proactively monitored are attached for information.

In summary, significant odour issues remain with the Taylor Preston operation despite recent plant upgrades. The proactive monitoring programme has confirmed this, along with general odour complains both during and after office hours.

Seaview monitoring has been generally successful. We confirmed one offensive odour from one of the sites during proactive monitoring.

Asphalt Surfaces New Zealand Ltd have been in compliance with their consent conditions during the proactive monitoring period (i.e. no offensive or objectionable odour beyond the boundary). Significantly, Greater Wellington has been advised by the management of Asphalt Services that due to the failure of the operation to secure a New Zealand buyer for the plant, it is likely the plant will be dismantled in the next few weeks and sent to Australia.

As noted, Careys Gully proactive monitoring commenced in early March.

4. What next?

The proactive monitoring programme will continue to the end of March 2003. At this point, there will be a full assessment and analysis of the entire six months programme of monitoring for all sites. A detailed report will then be prepared drawing conclusions on the merits of continuing the proactive monitoring programme, and any other action that may be considered necessary for the management of odour from these sites. A report will also be prepared for the Environment Committee seeking support for recommended approaches for the future.

5. Communications

Letters will continue to be sent to both complainants and the site operators informing them of both the outcomes of the six months of proactive monitoring, and also our strategies for future odour management and monitoring.

6. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (1) receive the report; and*
- (2) note the contents.*

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Report approved by:

Nigel Corry
Account Manager, Consents
Management

Paula Hammond
Manager, Consents
Management

Jane Bradbury
Divisional Manager,
Environment

Attachment 1: Interim report on outcomes of proactive odour monitoring at the Careys Gully Complex, Taylor Preston, Seaview and NZ Asphalt Services Ltd.