



Report 06.543
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Committee Environment Committee
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Environmental Regulation

Pollution Control Report for the period 4 August to 15 September 2006

1. Purpose

To report on incident response, investigation and audit work undertaken by Greater Wellington's Pollution Control Team in the Wellington Region during the reporting period.

2. Background

The Environment Management Division manages environmental pollution via the following:

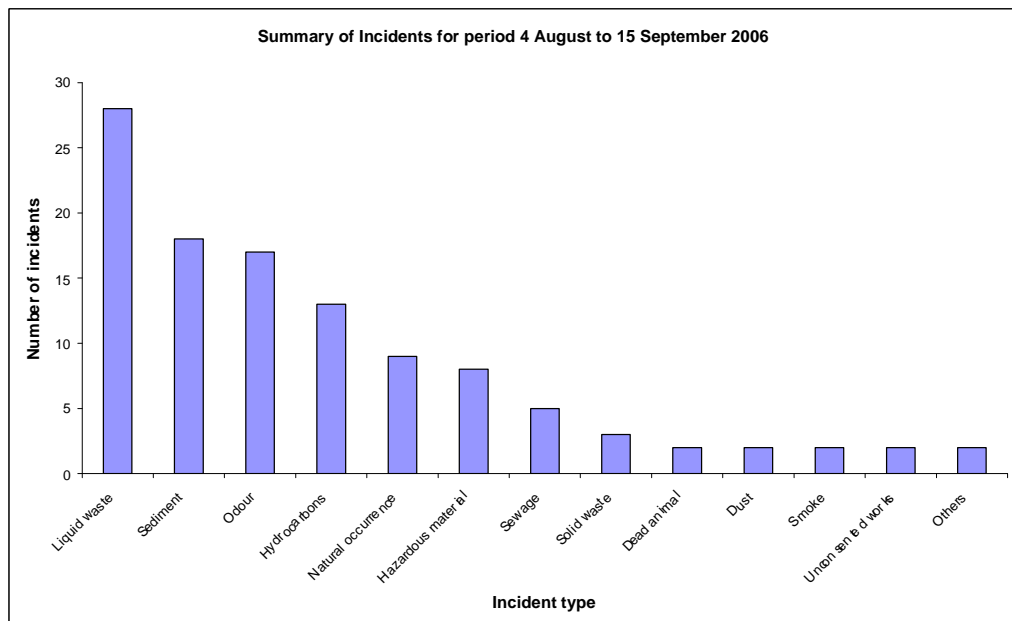
- 24-hour Incident Response service, addressing pollution complaints, environmental incidents and alleged non-compliance with regional plans.
- *Take Charge*, a pollution prevention programme to improve environmental performance and compliance of small to medium-sized businesses.
- Special Projects, which include the development of resource materials, and targeted investigations to establish baseline conditions, track trends, and characterise environmental problems.

3. Incidents

3.1 Incident summary

A total of 111 incidents were recorded during this reporting period, as summarised in Figure 1. Further information about specific incidents is provided in **Attachment 1**.

Figure 1: Summary of Incidents for period 4 August to 15 September 2006



This reporting period was characterised by a marked reduction in reported odour incidents and a high number of pollen related incidents as Pine, Gorse and other seasonal blooms occur. Specific incidents worthy of note that occurred during this reporting period are summarised below:

A large slip at a historic fill site in Kelson led to significant sediment discharge to Speedy Stream, and discoloration in the Hutt River. A sewage overflow to Speedy's Stream was stopped after 7 days when repairs were completed.



An industrial site in Wingate, Lower Hutt had a significant spill of a production chemical to the Waiwhetu Stream. Enforcement options are currently being considered.



Sediment loss from multiple small dam failures led to investigations into works in a wetland in Makara. Enforcement options are currently being considered.



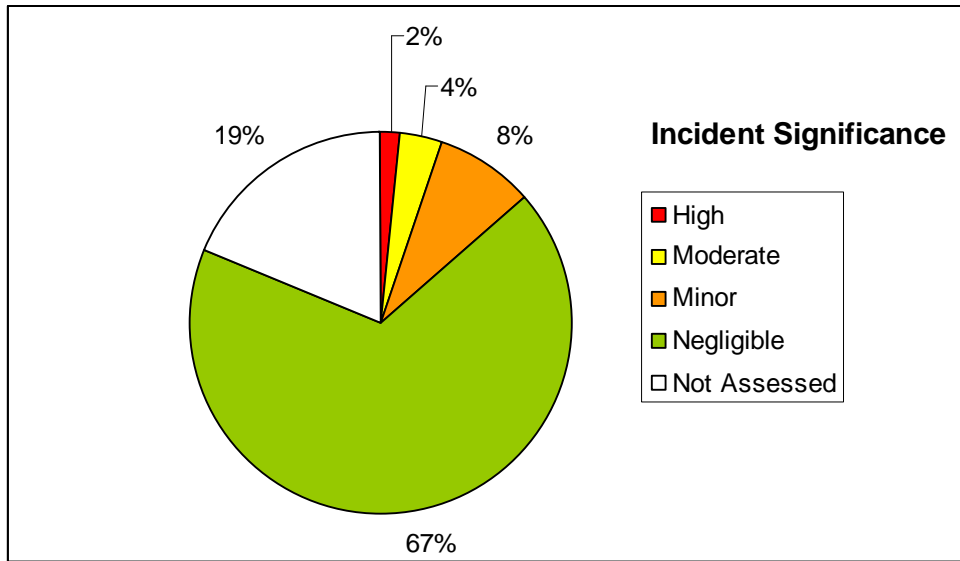
A rain event caused a pump station failure at the Moa point treatment plant, resulting in a discharge from the short outfall to Lavender Bay, Wellington.



3.2 Incident significance

The incidents are assessed for significance by officers as determined by the severity, duration and extent of environment effects. This ranking is used to track incident trends. The majority of incidents attended were considered to have negligible adverse affects. The incidents categorised as “not assessed” are those where officers did not attend the scene, or where officers were unable to assess the severity, duration and extent of environmental effects.

Figure 2: Incident Significance for period 16 June to 4 August 2006



3.3 Response times

The time between receiving an incoming complaint and attending on site (response time) is used as a performance indicator for the incident response service. Table 1 shows that all target response times were met comfortably.

Table 1: Response time summary

Target response time	Mean response time
Red (60 minutes)	32.5 minutes
Yellow (24 hours)	12.4 hours
Blue (7 days)	3.5 days

4. Enforcement action

Table 2 summarises enforcement action taken during this reporting period.

Table 2: Summary of enforcement action

Regulatory tool	Number issued
Advisory Notices	3
Infringement Notices	0
Abatement Notices	0
Enforcement Orders	0
Prosecutions (& information's laid)	0 (4)

These are summarised in the Environmental Regulation manager's report (report 06.536).

5. *Take Charge*

Fifteen revisits were undertaken to follow up recommendations of earlier reports at the Drain 6 sites. Enforcement recommendations are now being considered for those sites which have outstanding issues. The Pollution Control team has been invited to conduct audits at eight businesses enrolled in the EnviroSmart programme.

Two posters are being prepared for inclusion in a Kapiti Coast District Council garden and water conservation day. The posters will highlight the work undertaken in the Drain 6 stream catchment of the Ihakara Street commercial area.

6. *Special projects*

- The Pollution Control team is working with Wellington City Council to prioritise investigations for closed landfills in the Wellington district.
- A presentation was given to the Buchanan's Digger School in the Wairarapa; this is at the request of the school. The presentation covers best practice for earthworks sites, awareness of environmental issues and the regulatory framework.
- The Te Mome Stream contamination investigations application for funding from MfE has been declined and we will now look at other options for future investigations given the issues concerning stormwater discharges from the catchment area.
- A presentation regarding appropriate practices at small earthworks sites has been prepared and will soon be presented to building consents officers at local councils.
- A media almanac is being prepared to allow timely release of prepared media statements for annual issues that affect the region.

7. Communication

No further public communication is necessary for this report.

8. 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