



Trade Waste Officers Report 2011

Officer Name: Armann Einarsson

Council: Hastings District Council

Background:

Hastings District has a population of approximately 70,000; approximately 50,000 are connected to the reticulated network.

The wastewater reticulation is split into two networks, domestic and nonseparable waste and separated trade waste (which excludes human waste).

The wastewater facility, located in East Clive, services Hastings City, Havelock North, Flaxmere, Clive and Whakatu. The domestic and nonseparable network services 22,000 households, 12 consented premises and 370 "permitted discharge" premises discharging trade waste to the domestic wastewater facility.

Average daily volume through the domestic facility is 20,000m³ per day.

The treatment of the domestic waste, after onsite pre-treatment where applicable, consists of heavy grit settling chamber then 3mm screening, then through BTF and finally through fine grit settling chamber prior to being pumped through the 2.7 km long ocean outfall.

There are 24 industries discharging to the separated trade waste network. All are consented and have pre-treatment in place prior to discharge. Further treatment at the wastewater facility at East Clive consists of screening to 1mm, after which it is mixed with the domestic waste as it enters the fine grit settling chamber.

Daily volume through the trade waste milliscreen plant is between 20,000m³ and 40,000m³ depending on the season.

Trade Waste (large wet Industries)

These are fruit and vegetable processing, meat works, pet food production, wool scours, fellmongeries and one tannery.

All dischargers must have pre-treatment in place to ensure compliance with their consent conditions. The pre-treatment consists mainly of screening, fat removal and grit settlement. The discharges are mostly organic in nature and are readily assimilated into the marine environment.

Two of the larger industries are currently completing various upgrades to their pre treatment system. This will pretty much complete a series of improvements across the industries and should make any potentially serious breaches of consent an unlikely occurrence. Breaches are now usually minor in nature, of short duration and infrequent.

We have a good working relationship with the industries and are able to resolve most issues without having to resort to regulatory enforcement. A phone call, face to face discussion or an email is usually all it takes.

Other Issues:

Trade Waste charges.

HDC has two charging systems.

One is for discharges to the domestic sewer network and the other is for the separated industrial sewer.

The domestic sewer goes through the new screens and the BTF plant, while the separated trade waste sewer goes through a milliscreen plant.

Discharges to the separated industrial sewer are measured and the charges are calculated based on peak flow. We take the third highest two hour average peak for the previous year and multiply the peak by the amount per L/s.

Discharges to the domestic sewer are based on household equivalence and charged as equivalent numbers of UAC's. One household equivalence has been established to be 700L/day and 200 gms CBOD. The charge is based on whichever is higher, the CBOD or volume.

A number of these smaller industries we characterized to establish the number of equivalent households. There was an existing calculation for hotels, motels, restaurants etc that was based on the number of pans which approximates the load charge so we have continued to use this method keeping the load based measurement for the larger industries that cannot discharge to the separate Trade Waste Network.

Odour issues

Due to number of complaints about odour from neighbours of the Wastewater Facility, HDC installed dome covers on the BTF tanks. Sodium Nitrate dosing is in place at two major pump stations.

There have been a few odour complaints since the covers were installed but when investigated they were found to be from other sources than the wastewater facility.

“Cowboy” operator in the Liquid and Hazardous Waste business.

We have recently had a run in with one operator that is not willing to join the Liquid and Hazardous Waste Code compliancy programme and as a result our Water Services Bylaw excludes him from servicing industries in the district and discharging into the HDC sewer system. Septic tanks is his main business but we have been told (this has not been proven) he has also collected drilling mud from directional drilling operator.

Unfortunately he can continue to operate due to having access at another dumping facility that is happy to allow him to dump without any registrations or licensing. This facility is outside HDC jurisdiction and does not discharge into the HDC sewer network. This facility closed recently, for a period of time, resulting in this operator having very few options for dumping during the closure. He chose to dump illegally into a motor home dumping facility in Hastings. Once we became aware of his actions and had sufficient circumstantial evidence to confront him with, he moved back to the other dumping facility that had reopened, just in time for him and they are happy to allow him continued access. An opportunity lost to force a change onto or to eliminate a “cowboy” operator from the area.

Domestic plant takes serious hits from unidentified sources.

There have been two incidents where the BTF's have taken a hit from, as yet, unidentified source.

This will be covered in more detail by Bob McWilliams when he presents his paper at the conference.

The unexpected experiences in the course of the job.

Recently, on the way home after a plume study around the outfall we encountered a pod of Orcas. They got pretty close to us and one came right up to the boat to check us out, it rolled partly on its side and had a good look at us. When it was satisfied we were not a threat it dipped under the boat just enough to avoid touching the keel and went back to the rest of the pod. This was an experience that does not come along often.

A small sample from the encounter.

