

Staff Changes

There are fewer of us now at ARM following the economic downturn which has affected the demand for our services. Staff numbers are reduced to reflect this. We acknowledge the contribution Mark & James have made to our work and wish them well in their future endeavours.

Occupational Health Tests

Our business is primarily in air emission testing. Since occupational health tests employ similar techniques we have always been able to do this work. Examples of tests we have conducted in the past are:

- dust
- solvents
- total hydrocarbons

Recently we have extended our capability to the monitoring of X-Ray rooms for glutaraldehyde.

Presentation of Reports

Our use of email is increasing. You can send us data sheets in several formats, the most common being Excel files, named with a extension "*.xls". We can also accept word processing documents in several formats. WordPerfect is the most suitable, although we can also access Microsoft Word (**except** Word 97), generic "*.txt" documents, or documents produced with Windows Write or Wordpad.

Source Testing and Compliance Monitoring Discussion Documents

A summary of our submissions to the Ministry for the Environment on these documents was included in our December 1997 newsletter. The next stage is the issue in "proposed" form of these documents, prior to permanent adoption. It is reassuring to know that some of our submissions have been accepted.

Where we are and how to contact us

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Detection Limits

There is a wide range of emissions amongst different stacks depending on for example: process type, process load, emitted material composition, emission control and process operation. We are able to test to determine emissions down to quite low levels. The choices will depend on knowledge of the expected level of emission. Practically too it is often immaterial what the detection limit is, provided that it is below a significant level. We intend to include detection limits and the significance of these in all future proposals and reports.

Comparative Testing

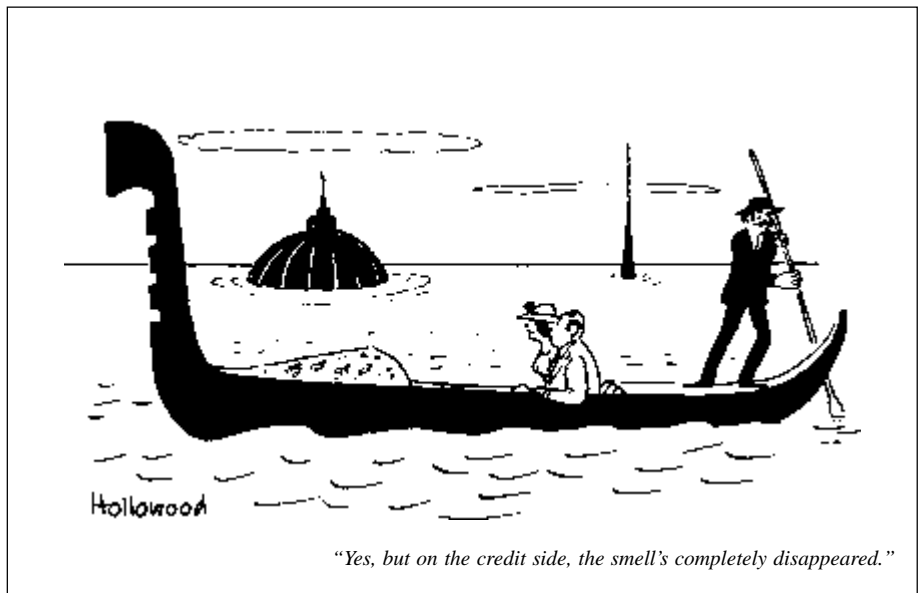
An important part of our quality assurance programme is comparative testing (this means sampling concurrently with another air emission testing team). Comparative testing is relatively easy for water pollution where the analytical aspect is dominant. For air emissions the sampling part of the exercise is equally as important as the analysis of the samples. It is quite difficult to arrange with colleagues for comparative tests, so we are grateful for the opportunities afforded recently to complete two of these exercises.

The results of the comparative tests show that we can be confident in the levels of emissions we report to our clients.

Long Term Trends

We provide a regular testing service for a number of clients. With the passing years quite a lot of data accumulates. This affords the opportunity to study trends which in turn prove fascinating insights into emissions and, by extension, likely environmental effects.

As part of our striving for constant improvement in our client services our reports will in future be enhanced by including, when requested, some comments on trends in emissions.



Graham Environmental Consulting Ltd

Bruce Graham joined us in our premises at 34 Lincoln Road six months ago. Since then we have both found the arrangement very suitable with the companies' capabilities being complementary. The range of Bruce's activities is illustrated by some recent assignments:

- Assisting Environment Waikato with an assessment of the proposal by NgaPuawaitanga (Meremere) Ltd to establish a waste-to-energy plant at Meremere.
- Assisting Watercare Services Ltd with a case in the High Court concerning alleged pesticide contamination of a public water supply.
- Work in Samoa on the management of persistent organic pollutants (pesticides and PCBs), for the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

We congratulate him on the successful launch of his business.

Methods

We are making increasing use of the Internet to obtain the latest methods for air emission testing. USEPA methods are well recognised and accepted as suitable by the grantors of Resource Consents in NZ. However, it is always necessary to obtain the consent of these grantors for the use of test methods before use especially if modifications to the method are required.