

Work Load

In August we experienced our busiest month in six years of operations. Fortunately Scott Ebbett has joined the staff permanently to enable us to cope with this increase in work.

Internet Web Site

Since its inception the US Environmental Protection Agency have always been very generous in sharing their information. We referred to their methods in the May issue of Fresh Air.

Recently they have improved their system by creating an Emissions Measurement Center. The address is:

<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/emc>

This site lists sampling methods for dozens of different emissions, many specialised by industry (e.g. Sampling and Analysis for Formaldehyde Emissions from Stationary Sources in the Mineral Wool Industry). We are able to download and print these methods and can provide them as part of our routine reporting of results.

Droplet Emissions

Wet scrubbers are generally assumed to saturate stack gases concurrently with performing their designed task of removing contaminants.

Occasionally they malfunction resulting in super-saturation; i.e. adding droplets to the gas stream. This is undesirable for several reasons:

- loss of pollution control efficiency
- large increase in emissions
- testing made more difficult
- processing adversely affected

From our point of view there are ways of getting around the difficulty of obtaining a valid result. However, one can say with a fair degree of confidence that such a result is likely to indicate excess emissions.

It is better therefore to service the scrubber before testing, rather than trying to prove the obvious.

Where we are and how to contact us

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Air Quality Working Group

We referred to this group in our December 1994 issue. It is a group of air consent administrators, primarily from Regional Councils, that meets periodically to compare notes. In the absence of national standards from the Ministry for the Environment it is the only forum for discussing the achievement of some degree of uniformity in the application of RMA law.

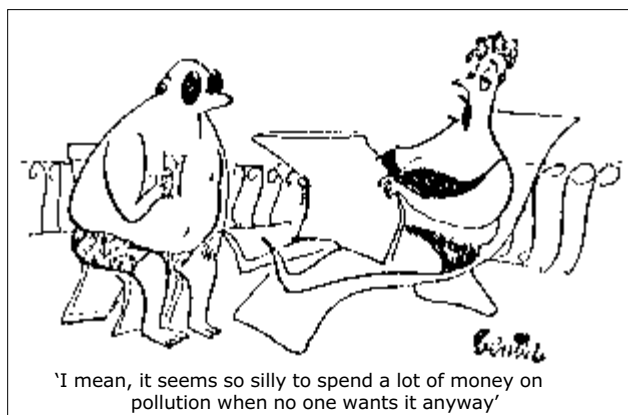
This year the Group has discussed ambient air monitoring programmes, handling of odour complaints, consent reviews (before a consent has expired), ambient air monitoring aimed at specific companies and particulate monitoring for particles less than 10 microns (PM₁₀) and less than 2.5 microns (PM_{2.5}).

Graham Environmental Consulting Ltd

We offer our congratulations to Bruce Graham now that his firm is one year old.

Bruce has just returned to New Zealand after spending most of the last six months overseas. Much of that time was spent looking at toxic waste problems around the Pacific Islands. He also spent a month in Nepal working on a pesticide management project.

And speaking of pesticides, we were pleased to learn that the case against Watercare Services (Bruce's client) for contamination of a water supply was dismissed.



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Copies of the above newsletters are available on request.