

Odour Management Plans

The Code of Practice (CoP) published by the Scottish Executive¹ provides a framework for local Councils and the Water Industry to reach agreement on best practicable means², avoiding costly and time-consuming legal disputes. The CoP is voluntary at present but will have statutory backing in spring 2006. To comply with the CoP, operators will need to develop detailed odour management plans for sites with a history of complaint.

Odour nuisance from WwTW can arise for a number of reasons, e.g:

- ▣ saline infiltration in the influent, load fluctuations, incorrectly sized treatment processes or inadequate process supervision and control.
- ▣ lack of odour control and containment; and
- ▣ lack of effective maintenance. In some cases odour abatement plant may be installed, but not operating effectively.

We have the experience to conduct odour surveys and assess off-site impacts using advanced dispersion modelling. This approach is often necessary to ensure that the odour abatement at operational works is prioritised effectively.

We have extensive experience in the measurement and assessment of odour from WwTW. The Airshed is an independent consultancy with no commercial relationship with equipment suppliers. See our website for more details on project experience and capability including:

- ▣ Odour study at large WwTW in Glasgow
- ▣ Odour control case studies
- ▣ Odour control projects for industrial effluent
- ▣ Odour abatement at a PPC process

Identifying the problems and solutions sometimes requires a multi-disciplinary approach, involving process and mechanical engineering skills as well as odour specialists. At the Airshed we can either work alongside your in-house engineers or provide a bespoke team of independent engineers to review process operations and assets. We can prepare comprehensive documented procedures for odour management plans.

This multi-disciplinary approach is transparent and accountable and will help operators demonstrate that the best practicable means has been adopted.

Notes

1. Scottish Executive April 2005. Code of Practice for the assessment of nuisance of odour from WwTW Paper 9/2005. (You can download a copy from the Airshed.com) 2. The statutory nuisance provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 provide a defence where it can be demonstrated that the best practicable means is adopted. This is subject to technical and economic considerations.

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