



# **Progress Report**

**2005**

## CONTENTS

### **1.0 PROGRESS REPORT**

- 1.1 Policy Background
- 1.2 Local Air Quality Management
- 1.3 Progress Report

### **2.0 NEW MONITORING RESULTS**

### **3.0 NEW LOCAL DEVELOPMENTS**

- 3.1 Industrial Processes
- 3.2 Traffic Management
- 3.3 Residential Development
- 3.4 Mineral Extraction

### **4.0 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- 4.1 Action Plans
- 4.2 Other Air Quality Monitoring
- 4.3 Radiation Monitoring

## **1.0 PROGRESS REPORT**

### **1.1 Policy Background**

The UK Government published its strategic policy framework for air quality management in 1995 establishing both national strategies and policies on air quality issues. In Northern Ireland, the Environment (NI) Order 2002 came into operation in January 2003 which provided the framework for local air quality management (LAQM) across the province and implemented both the European Air Framework Directive 96/62 EC and the UK Air Quality Strategy. The Air Quality objectives set out in the Air Quality Regulations (NI) 2003 provides the statutory basis for the LAQM process and prescribe the air quality objectives for Northern Ireland.

### **1.2 Local Air Quality Management**

Omagh District Council has in line with the technical guidance issued by DETR carried out the review and assessment approach to air quality on a phased approach as follows:-

#### **Stage One Review**

An initial screening of industrial, transportation and other sources of pollution that could have a significant impact within the district resulting in exceedances of the air quality objectives.

The Stage One report concluded that :-

(i) No further investigation or action was required to be undertaken for the following pollutants:

- Benzene
- 1,3-Butadiene
- Lead
- Carbon Monoxide

(ii) A stage 2/3 Review and Assessment was required for the following pollutants:

- Nitrogen Dioxide
- Sulphur Dioxide
- Particulate Matter (PM<sub>10</sub>)

The First Stage Report for Omagh District Council was completed in September 2001

## **Second/Third Stage Review**

A more focused examination of the three pollutants identified from Stage One was undertaken by way of a Stage Two/Three review utilizing modelling exercises and reference to locally monitored air quality data.

The second/third stage report concluded that:

- **Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) (Second Stage)**

Assessment relied upon the application of the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) model and local diffusion tube monitoring data. The results show that it is unlikely that either the annual mean or hourly NO<sub>2</sub> objectives will be exceeded at relevant receptor locations.

- **Particulate Matter PM<sub>10</sub> (Second Stage)**

Assessment for PM<sub>10</sub> arising from traffic sources at the respective road sections/junctions was undertaken using the DMRB model. The modelling predicted no exceedences of the PM<sub>10</sub> objective from traffic sources.

A number of fugitive emissions from industrial sources of PM<sub>10</sub> were examined as part of the Second Stage Assessment. Based on recent findings in GB and the results of local monitoring at a hard rock quarry it was considered that it was not necessary to proceed to a Third Stage Assessment in respect of these sources.

- **Sulphur Dioxide and Particulate Matter SO<sub>2</sub>/ PM<sub>10</sub> (Second and Third Stage)**

The absence of reliable locally monitored data necessitated Omagh District Council to proceed directly to a Third Stage Assessment for SO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> in respect of emissions from domestic sources and traffic sources. The assessments using appropriate modelling suggested that it is unlikely that there will be an exceedance of the SO<sub>2</sub> or PM<sub>10</sub> objectives in the modelled areas.

In conclusion the first round of Review and Assessment procedures indicated that there is no requirement to declare an Air Quality Management Area within the Omagh District Council Area.

### **1.3 Progress Report**

Omagh District Council has various duties with respect to local air quality management (LAQM) but following Government consultation it was concluded that the process was in danger of being too “start-stop” and that gaps may occur between air quality reviews. Detailed Assessments are now required at intervals of three years whilst Progress Reports are to be produced in the intervening years. Omagh District Council’s Progress Report 2005 is provided in accordance with Local Air Quality Management: Policy Guidance on Air Quality Progress Reports LAQM. PRG NI (04) issued under Art 16 of the Environment (NI) Order 2002.

### **2.0 NEW MONITORING RESULTS**

Omagh District Council has completed the First Round of LAQM by submitting its Stage 2/3 Report to DoE in December 2005. (The Report has subsequently been accepted by the retained external assessors in March 2005). The preparation of the Report utilized locally monitored data to verify dispersion modelling of PM<sub>10</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub>. Since the above date there has been no further monitoring of air quality pollutants within the District.

This is largely due to the outcomes of the Stage 2/3 Report, the lack of change in development profile of the District and the relatively short period since submission of the previous Report. It was therefore viewed that there was little benefit to be gained from continuing the previous or initiating any new monitoring programmes. This position will undoubtedly change in view of a number of developments recently commenced within Omagh town centre.

At the time of preparation of this report the town centre is subject to a number of temporary traffic measures to facilitate the construction of the final section of the Omagh by-pass. This has inevitably resulted in some changes to the traffic

flow through the town since the submission of the Stage 2/3 Report. However as this unrepresentative situation is subject to constant change due to the progression of the roads project, Omagh District Council will not be commencing any air quality monitoring until the by-pass has been commissioned.

### **3.0 NEW LOCAL DEVELOPMENTS**

**3.1** There has been no new industrial processes (Industrial Pollution Control/Industrial Pollution Prevention Control) (IPC/IPPC) commencing operation/changing significantly from the period January 2005 to date.

There is however an authorisation under IPC being sought from a mineral extraction process (Pt B), and permits under IPPC for an animal processor (Pt A) and animal carcass incineration (Pt C). It is anticipated that each operation will be regulated by December 2005.

**3.2** Department of Environment (Road Service) is currently engaged in the construction of Phase III of the Omagh by-pass which, when completed, will provide a distributor link for the main A5 route through Omagh town. The by-pass is anticipated to reduce traffic volumes and congestion within the town centre and provide a more effective way of dealing with traffic management within the district.

The impact of this new roads scheme has been examined by way of an environmental impact assessment as part of the planning process but Omagh District Council intend monitoring the air quality impact it presents in due course.

**3.3** There are a number of housing developments proposed for Omagh town - the largest being the construction of Coolnagard Village to the South West of the town centre and at lands adjacent to the by-pass at Crevenagh.

The proposed developments are of similar type and density to previously assessed residential land use and they are not expected to present any significant air quality impacts.

- 3.4** There is one proposed new sand/gravel extraction process to be located at a relatively rural site within the District. The Environmental Health Department will be assessing this application for potential air quality impacts in due course.  
(Accompanying Environmental Statement currently being prepared by applicant)

**4.0 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- 4.1** The Council has not declared an air quality action area and therefore does not need to implement any Action Plans.
- 4.2** The Council does not monitor Ozone, Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH's) or any other air pollutant. During 2005 to date there has been a number of complaints regarding odour from regulated industrial sources but these represent only isolated incidents.
- 4.3** Continuous gamma radiation monitoring is undertaken with ODC being included in the ARGUS network.