



Progress Report

2007

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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 prescribes 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 (PM₁₀)

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 utilising modelling exercises and reference to locally monitored air quality data.

The second/third stage report concluded that:

- **Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) (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 NO₂ objectives will be exceeded at relevant receptor locations.

- **Particulate Matter PM₁₀ (Second Stage)**

Assessment for PM₁₀ arising from traffic sources at the respective road sections/junctions was undertaken using the DMRB model. The modelling predicted no exceedences of the PM₁₀ objective from traffic sources.

A number of fugitive emissions from industrial sources of PM₁₀ 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 SO₂/ PM₁₀ (Second and Third Stage)**

The absence of reliable locally monitored data necessitated Omagh District Council to proceed directly to a Third Stage Assessment for SO₂ and PM₁₀ 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 SO₂ or PM₁₀ 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 An Updating and Screening Assessment

An Updating and Screening Assessment was completed in September 2006 in accordance with the methodology described in Technical Guidance LAQM TG (03) and subsequent update as issued by the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs which furthered the work already achieved by the first round of review and assessment of air quality.

The Updating and Screening Assessment has concluded that for each of the prescribed pollutants, air quality objectives are likely to be met in the ODC area and that it is not necessary to proceed to the Detailed Assessment Stage. The report did however suggest that upon completion of the final phase of the through-pass further consideration of potential impact of the roadway should be undertaken.

1.4 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 2007 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

The commissioning of the final phase of Omagh Through-pass in August 2006 represents the completion of the major re-alignment of the urban road network to Omagh town. As the previous air quality assessments advised it is now considered the appropriate time to initiate a monitoring programme to examine the potential impact of the new infrastructure on NO₂ levels. The majority of the scheme is well outside the main urban area and serve to link the earlier phases of the throughpass with the regional networks. As a consequence assessment will be undertaken by way of NO₂ diffusion tube monitoring at three locations (see Figure 1). It is anticipated

that the sampling period will be for a 24 month period the results of which will assist to verify an appropriate dispersion modelling exercise e.g. DMRB.

3.0 NEW LOCAL DEVELOPMENTS

- **Industrial developments**

There has been a number of new processes permitted to operate under the Pollution Prevention & Control regime as follows:-

Animal carcass incineration	(Pt C) 1 No.
Dry cleaning operations	(Pt C) 3 No.
Animal feed manufacturer	(Pt A) 1 No.
Concrete batching plant/quarry	(Pt B Variation) 1 No.

The following applications are also pending:-

Waste Water Treatment	(Pt A) 2 No.
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It is the Environmental Health Department's view that the above processes will be required to operate in accordance with the appropriate emission limits as prescribed in the relevant guidance notes and therefore are not anticipated to adversely affect local air quality.

- **Retail/Residential Developments**

Housing development has continued to expand within the urban area with ongoing construction at Coolnagard, new estates at Mullaghmena, Glencam and Shergrim and proposed development on lands adjacent the through-pass at Crevenagh and Gortrush and at Ballinamullan.

These developments are all of a similar type and density of existing developments and are not expected to adversely affect air quality.

4.0 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Omagh District Council has not been required to declare an air Quality Action Area and consequently does not need to implement any Action Plans.

**FIGURE 1: NO₂ DIFFUSION TUBE LOCATIONS
OMAGH TOWN**



