



Fermanagh District Council

Local Air Quality Management

PROGRESS REPORT 2008

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Local Air Quality Management

PROGRESS REPORT (2008)

1 BACKGROUND

The UK Government published its strategic policy framework for air quality management in 1995 which established national strategies and policies on air quality issues.

The Environment (NI) Order 2002 (Part III) together with the Air Quality Regulations (NI) 2003 provides the statutory basis for district councils to undertake local air quality management (LAQM) duties in NI.

One of the first steps in the LAQM process is for all District Councils to carry out a review and assessment of their local air quality. This has been carried out by FDC and was based on a staged approach as follows:

Stage One

An initial screening of industrial, transport and any other sources of pollution that could have a significant impact within the council area, resulting in the likelihood of exceedances of the air quality objectives

The Stage One report for Fermanagh District Council was completed in August 2001. It concluded that no further investigation or action needed to be undertaken for the following pollutants:

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

However, the Stage One screening indicated that air quality objectives were at risk of being exceeded for three of the strategy pollutants, namely:

- Nitrogen Dioxide
- Sulphur Dioxide
- Particulate Matter (PM₁₀)

Accordingly, Fermanagh District Council was required to proceed to a Stage Two/Three Review of these pollutants.

Stage Two/Three

A more detailed assessment of all the pollutants identified as significant locally in the first stage. This included computer modelling of sources and made reference to locally monitored air quality data.

The conclusions of the second/third stage were:

- Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) (Stage Two):

The assessment of NO₂ emissions from road traffic was largely based upon the application of the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) and some diffusion tube monitoring data that was available.

The results of both the diffusion tube survey and the DMRB modelling showed that it is unlikely that either the annual mean or hourly NO₂ objective will be exceeded in Fermanagh DC area at relevant receptor locations.

It was therefore not necessary to undertake a Third Stage Review and Assessment for NO₂.

- Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂) (Stage Two/Three):

In the absence of any reliable local monitoring, Fermanagh District Council was required to proceed directly to a Third Stage Review and Assessment in respect of SO₂ from domestic fuel combustion for the 1km x 1km grid square identified in Stage One.

The results of the assessment, using ADMS computer modelling, suggested that there was unlikely to be an exceedance of the SO₂ objectives in the modelled area.

- Particulates (PM₁₀) (Stage Two/Three) :

The results of DMRB modelling confirmed that there would be no likelihood of predicted exceedances of the PM₁₀ objective from traffic sources.

Based on findings elsewhere it was not considered necessary to proceed to a Stage Three Review and Assessment for PM₁₀ in respect of industrial type sources, controlled or uncontrolled.

In relation to domestic solid fuel use, in the absence of any reliable local monitoring data, it again was necessary to proceed to a Third Stage Review and Assessment for this source. This also involved detailed modelling of domestic fuel emissions using ADMS version 3.1, using new fuel usage data, as well as more locally accurate PM₁₀ monitoring data from neighbouring Omagh District Council.

The modelling suggested that an exceedance of the PM₁₀ objective was unlikely.

The conclusion of the first round of the Review and Assessment process was that it is not necessary to declare an Air Quality Management area within the Fermanagh District Council area.

2 PROGRESS REPORTS

In order to ensure continuity of the Government's Local Air Quality Review and Assessment process, Progress Reports are now required in the intervening years to fill the gaps between the three yearly requirement for detailed Assessments. The aim is to report progress on implementing local air quality management and progress on achieving or maintaining concentrations below the air quality objectives.

This Progress Report is being submitted therefore as required in accordance with the LAQM Progress Reports Policy Guidance PRG NI (04).

3 NEW MONITORING RESULTS

There are no new monitoring results since the 2007 Progress Report as NO₂ diffusion tube monitoring was suspended at the beginning of 2007.

There has been no monitoring of any of the other pollutants of concern.

4 NEW LOCAL DEVELOPMENTS

Industrial Pollution Control / Industrial Pollution Prevention and Control.

There have been no significant industrial processes or mineral developments permitted under the IPPC scheme since 2007 which would impact on air quality, with the exception of a new animal carcass waste incinerator near Derrylin. However, this Part C process, which is currently regulated by the District Council, should not adversely affect air quality in the area.

The Council's new Waste Management Landfill and Recycling Facility at Drummeemore, Enniskillen is currently in operation. The establishment of this process, which is regulated by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (IPRI), has resulted in the closure of the previous facility at Glassmullagh.

Retail / Residential / Road / Other Developments.

There are a number of medium / large housing developments both under construction and proposed in the Enniskillen area but these are all of a similar type and density to existing developments and are not expected to adversely affect air quality.

There have been two large retail supermarket developments completed and operational in Enniskillen since the 2007 Report but these do not significantly modify traffic flows.

A road widening scheme is under construction at Henry Street, Enniskillen at its junction with Wellington Road. The effect of this will be assessed after completion although it should not significantly modify traffic flows.

Work has commenced on the construction of a new acute hospital at Enniskillen but this development should not give rise to any significant adverse impact on air quality.

5 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

R J McCullagh
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