

Pollution Incident Response Management Plan GPT Stockpile Removal, Foreshore Road, Port Kembla EPL No. 21652

Full version

March 2022 | Rev 0



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Revisions

Rev No.	Summary of Changes	Date
0	Original	23/03/2022

1. Introduction

In March 2011, approval was granted for the development of Port Kembla's Outer Harbour to provide additional land for operational facilities and future berth construction. Part of the approved scope included the use of part of the Outer Harbour land for stockpiling, as identified in Section 6.3.3 of the approved Environmental Assessment prepared by AECOM, see below:

"A temporary stockpiling/surcharge area south of the proposed multi-purpose terminals would be demarcated, capable of handling up to 100,000m³ of fill material at any one time".

The stockpile derives from the former GPT West Keira site in Wollongong and is composed of sandstone rock material. The temporary stockpile was demarcated with the intent that the material eventually be used as reclamation fill once commercially viable and once demand for the land which its situated upon eventuated. The GPT Stockpile is located on approximately 3.2 hectares of land at Lot 6 DP 1236743 (part), Foreshore Road within the Outer Harbour of the Port of Port Kembla, and comprises Virgin Excavated Natural Materials (VENM)

NSW Ports is facilitating the construction and operation of Bulk Liquid Storage Tank facilities within the lease area of Port Kembla on the current stockpile site, such that the stockpile is to be crushed, relocated, compacted down and preloaded on various sites located within the lease area of the Outer Harbour of Port Kembla. To undertake these works, an environment protection licence (EPL 21652) has been obtained for the activities. It is expected that the activities will be completed within 6 months of commencing work, scheduled to begin in March 2022.

It is a requirement under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (POEO Act) for all licence holders to prepare and implement a Pollution Incident Response Management Plan for their licensed premises.

2. Objectives

The objectives of the plan are to:

- i. Ensure effective and timely communication about a pollution incident to staff at the premises, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), other relevant authorities specified in the Act and people outside the facility who may be affected by the impacts of the pollution incident;
- ii. Minimise and control the risk of a pollution incident at the facility by identifying risks and planning actions to minimise and manage those risks; and
- iii. Ensure that the plan is properly implemented by trained staff, identifying persons responsible for implementing it, and ensuring that the plan is regularly tested for accuracy, currency and suitability.

3. Scope and definitions

This Pollution Incident Response Management Plan (PIRMP) applies to the crushing, grinding and separating of the stockpile on Foreshore Road, including the following activities:

- Crushing, grinding and separating of VENM stockpile materials;
- loading of materials on to trucks for relocation within the Port Kembla Outer Harbour Development area; and
- refuelling of plant and equipment on site by road tankers.

The PIRMP applies to material pollution incidents which originate within the licensed premises. The extent of the premises to which the EPL applies is shown in Figure 1.

If a pollution incident occurs in the course of an activity so that material harm to the environment is caused or threatened, licensees must immediately implement the plan.

The definition of a “**pollution incident**” provided in the POEO Act is:

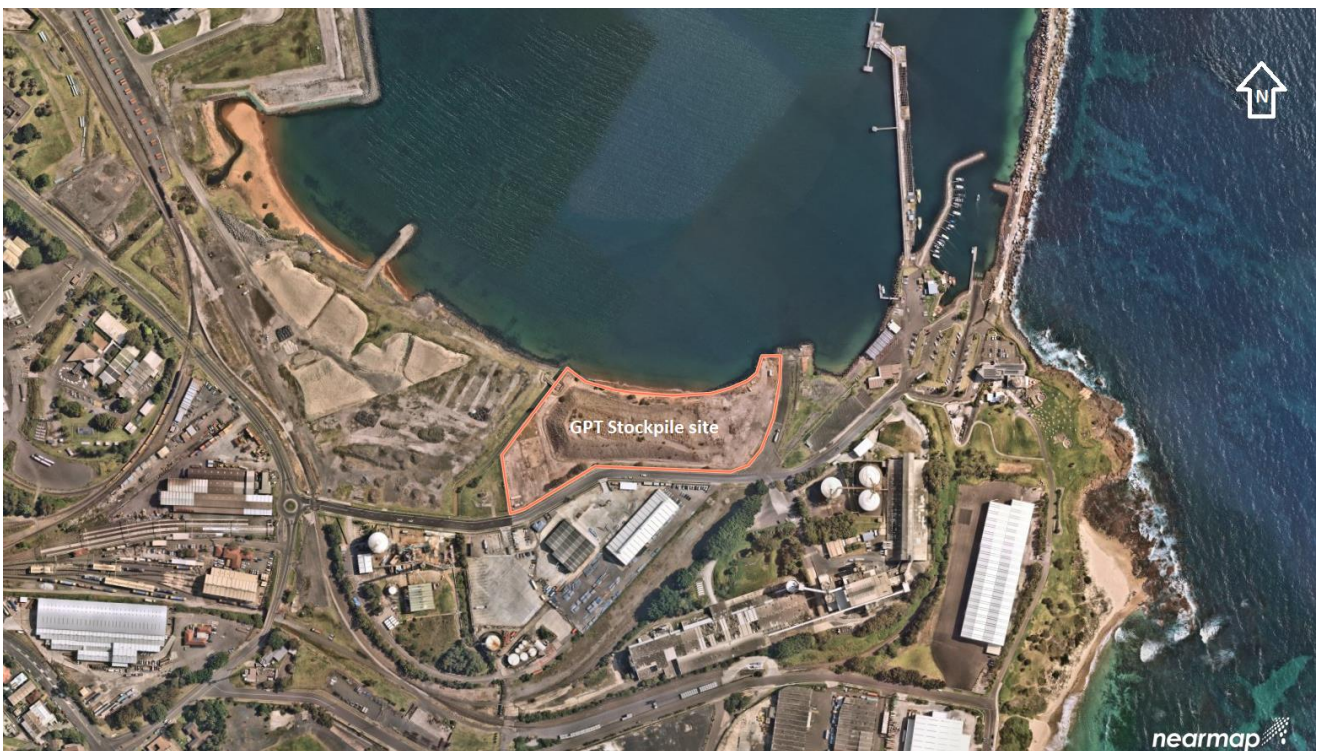
an incident or set of circumstances during, or as a consequence of which there is, or is likely to be, a leak, spill or other escape or deposit of a substance, as a result of which pollution has occurred, is occurring or is likely to occur. It includes an incident or set of circumstances in which a substance has been placed or disposed of on premises, but it does not include an incident or set of circumstances involving only the emission of any noise.

A pollution incident is required to be notified if there is a risk of “**material harm to the environment**”, which is defined in section 147 of the POEO Act as:

- (a) harm to the environment is material if:
 - (i) it involves actual or potential harm to the health or safety of human beings or to ecosystems that is not trivial, or
 - (ii) it results in actual or potential loss or property damage of an amount, or amounts in aggregate, exceeding \$10,000 (or such other amount as is prescribed by the regulations), and
- (b) loss includes the reasonable costs and expenses that would be incurred in taking all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent, mitigate or make good harm to the environment.

NSW Ports is required to report material pollution incidents **immediately** to the EPA, NSW Health, SafeWork NSW, Wollongong City Council and Fire & Rescue NSW. “**Immediately**” has its ordinary dictionary meaning of promptly and without delay.

Figure 1. Location of premises to which Environment Protection Licence No. 21652 applies



4. Legislative requirements

The specific requirements for pollution incident response management plans are set out in Part 5.7A of the POEO Act and the *Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Regulation 2009* (POEO(G) Regulation). In summary, this provision requires the following:

- All holders of environment protection licences must prepare a pollution incident response management plan (section 153A, POEO Act).
- The plan must include the information detailed in the POEO Act (section 153C) and be in the form required by the POEO(G) Regulation (clause 98B).
- Licensees must keep the plan at the premises to which the environment protection licence relates or, in the case of trackable waste transporters and mobile plant, where the relevant activity takes place (section 153D, POEO Act).
- Licensees must test the plan in accordance with the POEO(G) Regulation (clause 98E).
- If a pollution incident occurs in the course of an activity so that material harm to the environment is caused or threatened, licensees must immediately implement the plan (section 153F, POEO Act).

5. Other relevant plans for incident response

Other relevant incident/emergency response plans which may be activated in the event of a pollution incident at the Foreshore Road site are described in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Relevant Plans for Incident/Emergency Response

PLAN	CUSTODIAN
<i>Outer Harbour Emergency Response Plan</i>	NSW Ports
<i>Port Kembla Marine Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plan</i>	Port Authority of NSW

6. Identification and management of environmental hazards

The risk of environmental incidents associated with the stockpile relocation works is identified in Table 2.

Prior to works commencing, an environmental management plan (EMP) will be prepared and implemented by the Contractor that is appropriate to the VENM crushing, grinding and handling activities. The EMP shall recognise the compliance obligations specified in the EPL, identify and assess specific environmental risks associated with the operation, including the hazards listed in Table 2, and propose appropriate control measures for each of the identified risks.

The EMP shall also refer to this plan in relation to pollution incident response.

Table 2. Typical potential hazards to human health and the environment associated with stockpile relocation activities

POTENTIAL HAZARD	DESCRIPTION	LIKELIHOOD	FACTORS TO INCREASE LIKELIHOOD	POTENTIAL IMPACTS
Dust emissions	Dust may be emitted as a result of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crushing • Truck loading/unloading • Drag out of material on road 	Possible, but VENM material is not very dusty and unlikely to cause material harm	Crushing and handling of VENM in high wind conditions	Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People near the site • Respiratory symptoms • Eye irritation Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of amenity, nuisance dust
Sediment-laden runoff	May occur as a result of significant rainfall events	Possible, but unlikely to cause material harm	Extreme rainfall event, Poor maintenance of sediment controls	Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water pollution – sediment/turbidity • Sediment pollution on harbour bed

POTENTIAL HAZARD	DESCRIPTION	LIKELIHOOD	FACTORS TO INCREASE LIKELIHOOD	POTENTIAL IMPACTS
Oil Spill	Could potentially occur as a result of plant and equipment refuelling on site	Rare	Staff carelessness when refuelling	Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water pollution – hydrocarbons • Ecological damage – fish, birds, mangroves, saltmarsh

Typical pre-emptive risk minimisation measures and controls for crushing grinding and handling of the VENM stockpile may include:

- selection of appropriate material crushing, grinding and handling equipment;
- operation and maintenance of all material crushing, grinding and handling equipment in a proper and efficient manner / condition;
- implementation and maintenance of appropriate dust and sediment controls;
- ensuring clean road transport operations by covering loads, providing clean truck loading/unloading areas and/or cleaning vehicles prior to departure;
- safe equipment and plant site refuelling practices in accordance with Port Authority of NSW requirements.

7. Incident notification

7.1. Notification of relevant authorities

If a **pollution incident** that causes or threatens to cause **material harm to the environment** occurs at the site during the crushing, grinding and handling activities, NSW Ports is obliged to **immediately notify** each relevant authority as identified in the procedure below. Employees have a duty to notify their employer and agents / contractors are obliged to notify the principal in relation to incidents of this kind. Notification is not required for incidents that involve only the emission of an odour or noise.

The procedure for notification in the event of an incident or emergency is to call 000 in the first instance if the incident presents an immediate threat to human health or property. Fire and Rescue NSW, the NSW Police, the NSW Ambulance Service and Port Authority of NSW (for waterside pollution incidents only) are the first responders, as they are responsible for controlling and containing incidents. If the incident does not require an initial combat agency, or once the 000 call has been made, notify the **relevant authorities** in the following order:

- NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA)
- NSW Health – Wollongong Public Health Unit
- SafeWork NSW
- Wollongong City Council
- NSW Fire and Rescue (for non '000' emergencies)

The following relevant information about a pollution incident shall be supplied when notifying the relevant authorities:

- a) the time, date, nature, duration and location of the incident;
- b) the location of the place where pollution is occurring or is likely to occur
- c) the nature, the estimated quantity or volume and the concentration of any pollutants involved, if known;
- d) the circumstances in which the incident occurred (including the cause of the incident, if known);
- e) the action taken or proposed to be taken to deal with the incident and any resulting pollution or threatened pollution, if known;

If some of the information described in items c), d) and e) above is not known at the time of the initial notification but becomes known afterwards, that information must be notified to all relevant authorities immediately after it becomes known.

Initial notifications are to be made verbally to each relevant authority and followed by notifications in writing within 7 days of the date on which the incident occurred. Contact details for relevant authorities are provided in Table 3 below.

Table 3. – Emergency and Incident Response Contact Numbers for GPT Stockpile site

Agency	Phone Number
Emergency	000
Environment Protection Authority (EPA)	131 555 (24 hours)
NSW Health Wollongong Public Health Unit	1300 066 055 or (02) 4222 5000 (Wollongong Hospital and ask for Public Health Officer on call)
Wollongong City Council	(02) 4227 7111 (24 hours)
SafeWork NSW	13 10 50
Fire and Rescue NSW	
Emergency	000
Non-emergency – Hazmat Unit, Shellharbour	(02) 4297 4485
Non-emergency – Wollongong Fire Station	(02) 4224 2020
NSW Ports – Office Hours	1300 922 524
After hours – Port Operations Manager	0417 217 274
After hours – BSMS Security	(02) 4225 7935, Mob: 0434 423 935
Port Authority of NSW VTIC	(02) 4274 4571 (marine pollution incidents only)
Police	
Emergency	000
Non-emergency – Wollongong LAC	(02) 4226 7899
Ambulance	
Emergency	000
Non-emergency - Warrawong	(02) 9320 7777
Non-emergency – West Wollongong	(02) 4227 0222
Australian Industrial Energy	
After hours – Project Manager	

Figure 2. Port Kembla Tenancy Map



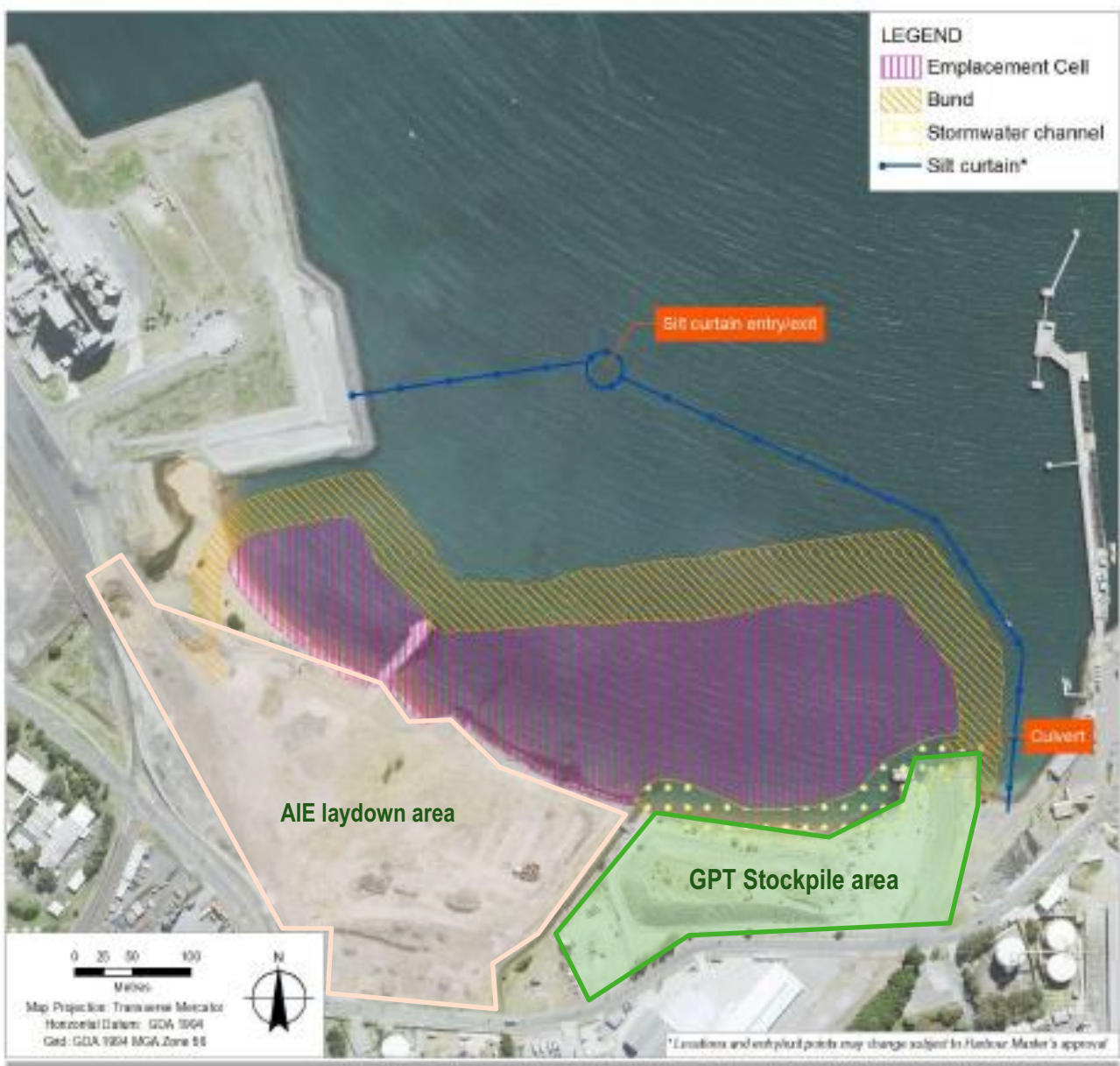
7.2. Informing occupiers of neighbouring premises

After notifying the relevant authorities, NSW Ports shall assess the potential impact of the pollution incident and associated response measures on premises in the vicinity of the stockpile site. Premises in Port Kembla are commercial and industrial port-related businesses as shown in **Figure 2**.

The premises adjacent to the stockpile site on the Outer Harbour land on Foreshore Road is currently leased to Australian Industrial Energies for the Port Kembla Gas Terminal Project, where AIE will also be undertaking large civil and reclamation works, which involves the handling and placement of dredged materials in the Outer Harbour emplacement cell as shown in **Figure 3**.

Stormwater from the GPT Stockpile site will discharge into the emplacement cell, which will provide a second level of mitigation and sediment control, as the emplacement cell will be a highly disturbed area receiving dredged materials and will have its own sediment controls, including silt curtains as shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3. AIE Port Kembla Outer Harbour Emplacement Cell



The nearest residential premises are located approximately 600 m to the southwest of the site in Port Kembla and are unlikely to be affected by a notifiable pollution incident at the site.

If a pollution incident creates a significant risk to occupiers of premises in the vicinity of the GPT Stockpile in terms of:

- risk of harm to human health, safety or property; or
- potential disruption to business activities or site access,

then NSW Ports will notify the occupiers of the potentially affected premises. Initial notification shall be made verbally by telephone. Further updates regarding the incident and progress of the response efforts may be made verbally or in writing by SMS or email.

In the unlikely event that areas beyond the port boundaries are affected by a pollution incident, information shall be provided by media release and publication on the NSW Ports website (www.nswports.com.au). Information shall be updated regularly as the incident response progresses.

8. Pollution reduction and control measures

8.1. Initial response to a pollution incident

NSW Ports staff will not have a permanent presence at the GPT Stockpile site during the crushing, grinding and handling activities, but will undertake routine inspections to ensure that activities are being undertaken in a competent manner in accordance with the EMP.

The initial response to a pollution incident at the site shall be the responsibility of the contractor engaged by NSW Ports to undertake the works and has caused the incident. The following examples are provided to assist in this regard:

The first priority after becoming aware of a pollution incident is to ensure the health and safety of personnel on site. Options such as evacuation of the site, isolation of the affected area (e.g. barricades and signage) and donning appropriate PPE shall be considered, although this would be unlikely for the activities being conducted at the site.

The responsible party shall, where it is safe and practicable to do so, take action to reduce or control the incident in accordance with the general process described in section 8.3 below.

The responsible party shall immediately notify NSW Ports personnel (or BSMS Security, NSW Ports security contractor, if NSW Ports personnel are not immediately contactable) of any pollution incident at the site and supply all relevant details.

8.2. Coordination of pollution incident response

Upon notification of a pollution incident, NSW Ports shall determine the threat of material harm to the environment and make the necessary notifications as described in Section 7.

The NSW Ports employee through whom all communications should be made for the coordination of pollution incident response is:

Mr Paul Ryan - Port Operations Manager (m: 0429 502 162)

Mr Ashton may delegate his role to another NSW Ports employee as appropriate.

The additional responsibilities of Mr Ashton, or his delegate, include:

- i. activation of this plan in response to a pollution incident;
- ii. notification of relevant authorities; and
- iii. managing the response to a pollution incident.

For incidents which involve the discharge of oil or other noxious liquid substances from a vessel, the lead combat agency is the Port Authority of NSW.

For incidents which involve spillage of hazardous substances on land, the lead combat agency is Fire and Rescue NSW – Hazmat Unit.

The NSW Ports contact person shall ensure effective coordination with all authorities involved in the incident response by participating in the incident response team, providing information to the incident controller and receiving regular briefings or situation reports from the incident controller.

8.3. Actions to reduce and control pollution

A general process for reducing and controlling pollution from an incident at the GPT Stockpile site is described in Table 4 below. Appropriate control measures shall be selected and implemented by the responsible party or lead combat agency.

Table 4. Measures to reduce and control pollution as a result of an incident

Type of Action	Examples
Stop an emission or a spill from crushing, handling, transporting of VENM	Stop work and implement appropriate controls, such as stop pump, close valve, cease operation of equipment
Contain pollution	Control fuel & oil spills with spill kit materials, deploy booms if a fuel or oil spill makes it to water
Clean-up pollution	Absorbents, skimmer, sucker truck, vacuum sweeper, remove contaminated soils to suitable licenced landfill

Specific measures for control of any significant fuel and oil from the GPT Stockpile site are contained within other relevant plans, including:

Port Kembla Marine Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plan

All fuel trucks shall carry suitable spill kits on board. The Port Authority of NSW and Park Pty Ltd hold significant resources (e.g. booms, absorbents, vessels, skimmers, etc.) to combat marine oil and chemical spills. These are described in the *Port Kembla Marine Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plan*.

9. Training

NSW Ports staff based at Port Kembla and the Contractor engaged to remove the GPT Stockpile shall be selected for training with regard to pollution incident response at the GPT Stockpile site. Staff from the following teams shall be included; HSE & Risk, Asset Management and Port Operations.

Training shall consist of a 1 hour briefing to be conducted by the NSW Ports Operations & Environment team. The key objectives of training will be to:

- familiarise staff with the Pollution Incident Response Management Plan;
- explain the duty to notify pollution incidents and the notification procedure; and
- provide an overview of pollution reduction and control actions which may be implemented in response to an incident.

A register of training participants shall be maintained by the NSW Ports Operations & Environment team.

10. Testing and improvement of the plan

This plan is to be tested annually by desktop simulation of a pollution incident at the site. The purpose of testing is to ensure that the information included in the plan is accurate and up to date and the plan is capable of being implemented in a workable and effective manner. Elements of the plan to be tested, may include:

- notification procedures and contact details;
- incident coordination with other agencies (e.g. Port Authority of NSW);
- selection of appropriate incident response actions to protect human health and reduce or control pollution.

It is also required that the plan is tested within 1 month after any notifiable pollution incident occurring in the course of an activity to which the licence relates.

The results of testing shall be recorded within the plan and used to update the plan as required.

10.1. Testing record

The record of testing for this Plan is in Table 5 below.

Table 5. Plan testing and improvement record

Date of Test	Scope of Test	Participants	Improvements	Updated



Further information

For further information, please contact

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