



NEWSLETTER

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Bulletin

News

The Company director attended the first UNEP Tsunami Disaster Task Force technical meeting in Geneva in February 2005 on waste and debris management in affected countries. In most areas the general absence of authorized landfills and waste recycling centres and the technical skills

to construct these facilities is considered to be of concern. A role in the preparation of technical guidance and in local capacity building is anticipated.

The Company director repeated the course *Emergency Aid for the Appointed Person* at a St John Ambulance centre in February 2005 and has applied under the grandfather process through IEMA to be registered as a chartered environmentalist *CEnv*.

Recent Projects

Phase II ESA site investigations were carried out at two properties on quaysides in Aberdeen in the summer of 2004 on behalf of the Florida based company TSCI. Significant levels of hydrocarbon contamination possibly linked to a nearby ships waste oil bunker were found.

A compliance assurance audit was carried out at a waste transfer station in Orpington, Kent prior to drafting an update of the site Working Plan, commissioning a noise survey from Auracle Acoustics and interacting with the Environment Agency on redefining the waste types at the site.

The Company was commissioned by a packaging manufacturing company to investigate the linkage between a known spillage of solvent from a burst pipe and the appearance of solvent contamination in a nearby brook followed by a risk assessment.



ESA Site Investigation



Waste Transfer Station Audit

Five Year Business Review 2000-2004

The type of work carried out by the Company over the past 5 years is dominated by Environmental Audit. The breakdown of types of audit is given in the table opposite for the past two years with Best Value auditing the most common. The UNEP capacity building business in 2004 is wholly responsible for the reappearance of Training whilst the Aberdeen site investigations are principally responsible for the reappearance of Contaminated Land business in 2004. By sector, 2004 business was accounted for by:

"The type of work is dominated by Environmental Audit"

waste 34%; NGOs 30%; general manufacturing 24% ; and oil & gas 12%. Close to 50 % of 2004 business derived from the private sector; 30% from international NGOs; and 20% from local government in the UK. Most business (70%) in 2004 was conducted in the UK.

Type of Work %	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Contaminated Land	3	32	33	0	8
Environmental Audit	43	29	20	83	43
- Compliance Assurance				(22)	(9)
- Due Diligence ESA				(10)	(14)
- Best Value Performance				(51)	(21)
Management Systems	40	0	3	0	7
Regulatory Support	14	23	34	4	8
Expert Opinion	0	10	10	13	4
Training	0	5	0	0	30
TOTALS %	100	100	100	100	100

Building Capacity for Environmental Governance in Iraq

The principal client during 2004 was the United Nations Environment Programme and in particular the project *Building Capacity for Environmental Governance in Iraq*.

Iraq is confronted with a range of environmental problems that are both immediate and severe. Some can be directly linked with the effects of recent military conflicts. Others have been triggered

by internal Iraqi policies and actions, and exacerbated by factors such as the impact of economic sanctions and limited regional cooperation on the management of shared natural resources. Following the 2003 conflict, UNEP issued a Desk Study on the Environment in Iraq in April 2003 and a Progress Report on the Environment in October 2003. Both reports outlined the key chronic environmental problems faced by the country, as well the environmental threats caused by the various military conflicts.

Based on the Desk Study and the Progress Report, UNEP identified the importance of conducting environmental assessments at selected contaminated sites in order to identify risks to human health and livelihoods and to

initiate urgent risk reduction measures.

In addition, the need was also identified to build the environmental governance capacity of the Iraqi administration and to provide specific training to experts from the Ministry of Environment in the areas of contaminated sites, environmental assessment and environmental monitoring. UNEP has developed, in consultation with the Iraqi Ministry of Environment, a comprehensive package of activities that will contribute to building the capacity of the Ministry of Environment to conduct assessments of contaminated sites and monitor

environmental quality. The Company has been involved in the design and delivery of workshops on environmental site assessment, site monitoring and sampling, and risk assessment. The training is focused on the assessment and remediation of five specific sites identified by the MoE in Iraq. The training has emphasized the practical aspects of each stage in the environmental site assessment process including a Phase I ESA of a cement plant and quarry in Jordan and the demonstration and use of field sampling and monitoring equipment at a laboratory in Switzerland.

"The training is focused on the assessment and remediation of five specific sites identified in Iraq"



Best Value Auditing Completes its 5th Year at Oxfordshire CC

The Company completed the 5th annual Best Value review of Oxfordshire County Council's contracted landfill service in 2004 as part of the process of implementing best value principles in all its activities. The audit represents a systematic examination by

the Company, acting as an independent auditor, to determine the conformity or non-conformity of each landfill's operations in meeting compliance with the relevant conditions of key legal and regulatory documents. A strong degree of compliance with these

conditions is considered to represent acceptable performance. A set of Questions each representing key site operating conditions for each site has been devised. These are grouped

using the Audit Module of the computer-based Environmental Information Management System *EQuest* into one of eight sections and scores from 0 ('does not meet' – a non-conformity) to 3 ('fully meets' – a conformity) are applied to each.

Site specific check-lists are devised for each site in advance of the audit visits and evidence is collected through

examination of documents and observations made. The 2004 audits demonstrated that the operations at all the contracted landfills are achieving good conformity with the conditions of legal and regulatory requirements but all sites have areas where improvements could be made in the overall level of service provided.



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