NetworkRail

Toolbox talk – Environment

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Pumping and overpumping What?

- excavations often require dewatering (ie the pumping out of any rainwater or groundwater)
- this water may contain silt and/or other contaminants that, if disposed of incorrectly, could result in pollution of controlled waters (rivers, streams, groundwater, lakes and the sea)
- pumped water must not be discharged into watercourses, gullies drains or sewers without prior permit/authorisation or consent granted by the appropriate regulator or local sewerage undertaker
- □ sections of existing sewers and pipelines are sometimes taken out of service to allow construction or repair works to take place
- □ flows can be maintained by installing temporary pumps and "overpumping" those sections
- $\hfill\square$ if not controlled correctly overpumping can cause pollution.

Why?

- avoid environmental harm: water pumped from excavations can be muddy (silty) and, when the excavations are in previously developed or brownfield land, it can be contaminated. The improper discharge of water polluted by mud or contaminants can cause serious pollution to watercourses
- avoid environmental harm: overpumping is often required in maintaining the flows of foul sewage that, if it is allowed to escape to find its way into a watercourse, can have a devastating effect on wildlife
- □ avoid prosecution: it is illegal to allow polluted or silty water to

<u>Do</u>

- check with a line manager before pumping, what treatment systems are required before final discharge of pumped out water. Typical systems include settlement tanks or lagoons, discharge over grassed areas, through silt socks or hay bales
- check that the point of discharge is in the correct location to the sewer, manhole or gully as set out by a line manager
- ✓ check that all couplings and other pipework fittings are secure
- regularly check that any treatment systems are working and that water being finally discharged is clear of silt or solids that may cause pollution and is not causing damage to the bed or banks of any watercourse
- ✓ notify a line manager immediately if it is noticed that:
 - pollution (muddy water, oils etc) is occurring



enter watercourses, gullies or drains, even where consent to pump has been gained

avoid flooding: if water is discharged into a sewer or gully of insufficient capacity then flooding will occur, potentially causing pollutants to enter watercourses or creating nuisance to site operations.

Questions

- 1 Are there any consents to discharge on this site?
- 2 What is the quality of water allowed to discharge, for example clear water or silty water?
- 3 Under what conditions should a line manager be notified?
- the discharge is causing flooding
- any pipework is damaged or connections have broken or are leaking.

<u>Don't</u>

- × pump without prior approval from a line manager
- leave pumping operations unattended for long periods unless authorised to do so by a line manager
- continue with overpumping if the receiving sewer or pipeline cannot cope with the capacity
- ignore signs that pollution is occurring, for example muddy water entering watercourses or gullies
- change pipework or discharge points without the authorisation of a line manager.



Title:	
Given by:	D
Site:	

Company	Signature
	Company

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For further information please contact a member of the Environment Team

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Date: