

Local Government (Water Pollution) Act, 1977
(Water Quality for Phosphorus Regulations) 1988

South Tipperary County Council



Measures Implementation Report

(Implementation of Measures to be taken to secure compliance with the standards prescribed by the Phosphorous Regulations)

July 2004

Table of Contents	Page
Introduction	3
Section 1 Water Quality in South Tipperary	4-10
Section 2 Implementation of Measures	11
Section 3 Progress to Date	12-20
Summary	21
Conclusion	21
Appendix A	
Table 1.1 River Water Quality standards to be achieved by 2007.	
Appendix B	
TABLE 2.1 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME SUMMARY TABLE FOR SOUTH TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL AREA	
TABLE 2.2 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME SUMMARY TABLE FOR RIVERS IN SOUTH TIPPERARY AREA	

Introduction

In accordance with the requirements of Article 4(2) of S.I. 258 of 1998 ([Local Government \(Water Pollution\) Act, 1977 \(Water Quality Standards for Phosphorus\) Regulations, 1998](#)) South Tipperary County Council submitted its Measures Report to the Environmental protection Agency in July 1999. Implementation Reports were submitted to the Agency in July 2000 & 2002. This is the third implementation report submitted under the above regulations. The format of the report adheres to the guidance note issued by the Environmental Protection Agency and consists of three main sections:

Section 1 Water Quality in South Tipperary

Section 2 Implementation of Measures

Section 3 Progress to date

This objective of this report is to set out current water quality status, its comparison with the Interim Standard or Target to be achieved by 2007 for sites specified in the initial Measures Report. The report must also evaluate each proposed measure and state progress made towards implementation with revision of timescales where necessary. Information on problems and successes encountered are also to be provided.

Section 1 Water Quality in South Tipperary

Table 1.1 *River Water Quality standards to be achieved by 2007* located in Appendix A provides, for each monitoring site, details of current, baseline and target (2007) water quality.

Biological classification of the rivers in South Tipperary is carried out once every three years by the EPA. This involves examination of the macroinvertebrate communities – crustaceans, insects, worms, mollusks, leaches etc that live in the river. Some species are sensitive to pollution while others have varying degrees of tolerance and a system for classifying water quality depending on the relative numbers of various macroinvertebrates has been developed and is currently used by the EPA. Depending on the diversity of species found and their numbers the river is classified on a scale of Q1 (worst) to Q5(best) The relationship between Q values and quality status is given by the table below.

Q Value	Quality Status
Q5, Q4-5, Q4	Unpolluted
Q 3-4	Slightly Polluted
Q3, Q2-3	Moderately Polluted
Q2, Q1-2, Q1	Seriously Polluted

Synopsis of Data in Table 1.1

	2004 Implementation Report	2002 Implementation Report	Baseline 1997
No of sites monitored	84	74	82
Satisfactory	46 (55%)	45 (60.8%)	44 (54%)
Unsatisfactory	38 (45%)	29 (39.2%)	38 (46%)

Q Rating Water Quality has **improved** at 21 sites
 Water Quality remained **unchanged** at 46 sites.
 Water Quality **deteriorated** at 15 sites compared to
 baseline data.

Median MRP 38 of 67 sites reduced Median MRP
 19 of 67 sites had an increased Median MRP

Table No 1.2 Stations in Pollution Category Baseline and Current

Biotic Index	Pollution Class	Quality Status	Baseline Quality No of Stations in Category	Current (2003) No of Stations in Category
Q1	Class D	Serious Pollution	0	0
Q1-2			0	0
Q2			0	1
Q2-3	Class C	Moderate Pollution	2	1
Q3			16	11
Q3-4	Class B	Slight	20	25
Q4	Class A	Unpolluted	36	35
Q4-5			7	11
Q5			1	0
No of Stations where quality must be maintained			44 (54%)	46 (55%)
No of Stations which will require improvement			38 (46%)	38 (45%)

The biological monitoring carried out during 2002 and 2003 indicate a reduction in the number of monitoring sites suffering Serious & Moderate pollution. However there was an increase in the number of sites classified as slightly polluted. Overall there was a small increase in the number of sites classified as being unpolluted and of satisfactory quality.

Comment

Half –Way House- This is a minor stream and quality status is primarily due to low flows but pollution sources are currently being investigated as part of a channel survey of the stream.

Clashawley. Problems here are due to the low river flow and the impact of the municipal discharges at Killenaule. Killenaule UWWTP is currently being upgraded and will have both tertiary treatment and phosphorous removal following that upgrade.

Anner- Problems again relate to very low river flows during summer months and impact of municipal discharges at Drangan & Mullinahone. However diffuse pollution from agricultural sources is also a factor.

Ara – Water quality problems due to diffuse pollution upstream of Tipperary Town and a combination of urban run-off, industrial discharges and diffuse pollution below the town.

Moyle.

The problems here have been identified as low summer flows and the impact of IPC license activities.

Outeragh

Quality problems primarily due to unauthorized discharges from a dairy co-operative. Enforcement action resulted in prosecution of the offending enterprise. This co-operative has recently ceased operating and as such will remove a significant pressure on water quality.

Table No 1.3 Monitoring Sites suffering serious or moderate pollution.

River	Code	Station	Location	Q Value	MRP Median P
Half-Way-House	16H02	300	Br. NW of Half Way House	2	
Clashawley	16C01	100	Killenaule	2-3	74
Anner	16A02	100	Bridge just N. of Drangan	3	95
Anner	16A02	340	Br d/s Mullinahone Branch	3	
Anner	16A02	400	Bridge in Mullinahone	3	73
Ara	16A03	300	1 km d/s Tipperary nr Railway Br	3	203
Ara	16A03	500	Bansha Bridge	3	110
Moyle	16M01	50	Br NW of Mocklerstown	3	
Moyle	16M01	200	Ballinavoher Bridge	3	73
Outeragh Str.	16O05	150	Br W. of Outeragh	3	
Outeragh Str.	16O06	200	Bridge u/s Suir River confl	3	24
Suir	16S02	2700	Kilsheelan Bridge	3	20
Suir	16S02	2850	1.5 km u/s Carrick-on-Suir	3	

Table 1.4 provides details on the compliance of each river in achieving either the Biotic Index (Q Value) standard or the Phosphorous Standard. Failing to meet either standard does not necessarily mean that the water is suffering from pollution, but can mean that where quality was excellent a slippage has occurred. This confirms that maintaining the quality in excellent waters may prove as big a challenge as improving the quality in others.

Table 1.4 Percentage Compliance of River’ with Q Rating Standard

River	No Of Monitoring Sites on River	No Of Sites Complying With Standard	No Of Sites Not Complying With Standard	Percentage of Sites Complying
Aherlow	7	7	0	100
Anner	9	5	4	78
Ara	7	3	4	14
Arglo	2	0	2	100
Burncourt	2	1	1	0
Clashawley	6	3	3	83
Duag	2	1	1	50
Fidaghta	3	2	1	100
Glengalla	1	1	0	100
Half Way House Stream	2	1	1	50
King River	1	1	0	0
Lingaun	4	3	1	75
Moyle	3	0	1	0
Multeen	8	5	2	62.5
Munster	1	0	0	0
Outeragh Str.	2	0	2	50
Suir	16	10	6	62.5
Tar	4	4	0	100
Thonoge	1	1	0	100

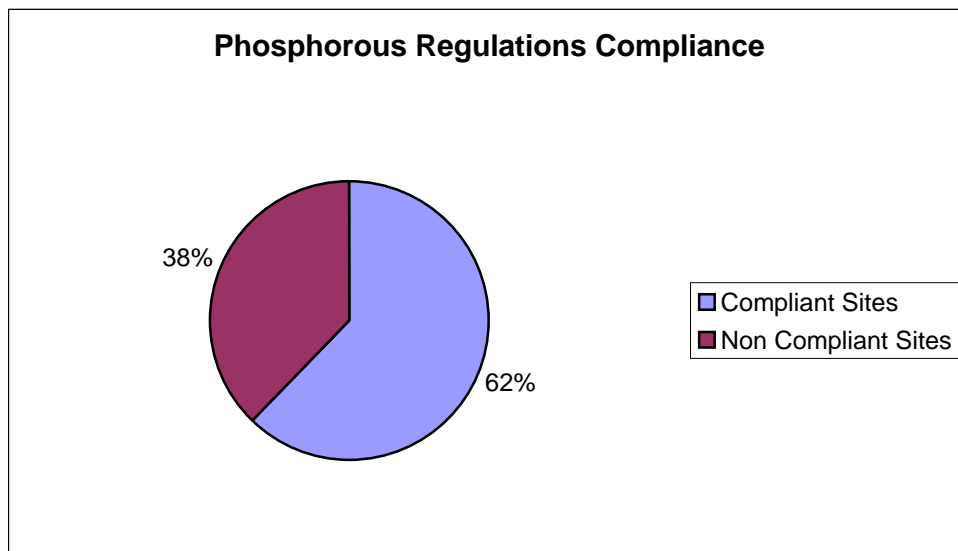


Table 1.5 River stations, which complied with either Standard

River Name	Station	Station Location Name	Current Q	Current MRP	Target 2007	Target 2007	Target Met
Aherlow	200	Galbally Bridge	4	42	4	30	Y
Aherlow	300	Stagdale Bridge	4	33	4	30	Y
Aherlow	500	Second Ford d/s New Bridge	4	20	4	30	Y
Aherlow	600	Bridge 2 km S.W. of Foxfort	4	28	4	30	Y
Aherlow	700	Bridge S. of Ashgrove House	4	19	4	30	Y
Aherlow	800	Cappa Old Bridge	4	14	4	30	Y
Aherlow	900	Killardry Bridge	4	80	4	30	Y
Anner	700	Melbourne Bridge	4	62	4	30	Y
Anner	800	Br S.W. of Killusty Castle	4	63	4	30	Y
Anner	900	Thorny Bridge	4	49	4	30	Y
Anner	1000	Br (Ford) W. of Ballynevin	N/A	43	4	30	Y
Anner	1100	Bridge near Anner House	4	58	4	30	Y
Ara	200	Bridge just u/s Tipperary	3-4	100	3-4.	50	Y
Ara	440	Bridge N.E. of Lacken	3-4		3-4.	50	Y
Arglo	100	Bridge near Grangebeg House	3-4	14	4	30	Y
Arglo	200	Arglo Bridge	3-4	11	4	30	Y
Burncourt	100	Glengarra Bridge	4	8	5	15	Y
Burncourt	300	Burncourt Old Bridge	4-5	11	4-5.	15	Y
Clashawley	50	Br S.W. of Cathaganstown	4		4	30	Y
Clashawley	200	Bridge nr St Johnston Castle	4	50	3-4.	50	Y
Clashawley	400	Bridge at Ballybough	4	33	4	30	Y
Clashawley	600	Loughcapple Bridge	4	45	4	30	Y
Duag	100	Bridge u/s Ballyporeen	4		4	30	Y
Fidaghta	200	Bridge near Lisgibbon	3-4	26	4	30	Y
Fidaghta	300	Kilnacask Bridge	4	26	3-4.	50	Y
Glengalla	100	Glengalla Bridge	4-5		4-5.	20	Y
Lingaun	200	Lingaun Bridge	4	10	4	30	Y
Lingaun	300	Bridge at Inchanaglogh	4	10	4	30	Y
Lingaun	600	The Three Bridges	4	28	4	30	Y
Moyle	50	Br NW of Mocklerstown	3		3	70	Y
Multeen	100	Bridge near Turraheen Lower	4-5	9	4	30	Y
Multeen	300	Clonedarby Bridge	4	22	4	30	Y
Multeen	400	Black Bridge	3-4	21	4	30	Y
Multeen	500	Aughnagross Bridge	4	20	4	30	Y
Multeen	600	Ford S.E. of Inchinsquillib	4	11	4	30	Y
Multeen	700	Ironmills Bridge	4-5	16	4	30	Y
Multeen	1000	Ballinclogh Bridge	4	15	4-5.	20	Y
Multeen	1100	Ballygriffin Bridge	4	16	4	30	Y
Tar	30	Bridge N. of Redhill House	4-5		4-5.	20	Y
Tar	200	Garrymore Bridge	4-5	20	4	30	Y
Tar	300		3-4	20	4	30	Y
Tar	400	Near Ballyboy House	4-5	21	4	30	Y
Tar	600	Ford u/s Tar Bridge	4-5	12	4-5.	20	Y
Thonoge	200	East Bridge, Tubbrid	4	21	4	30	Y
Half Way House Stream	200	Br S.W. of Foxmount	3-4		3-4.	50	Y

Table 1.5 Cont. River stations, which complied with either Standard

River Name	Station	Station Location Name	Current Q	Current MRP	Target 2007	Target 2007	Target Met
Suir	1200	Twoford Bridge	4	59	4	30	Y
Suir	1300	Ardmayle Bridge	4-5	38	4	30	Y
Suir	1400	Camus Bridge	4	36	4	30	Y
Suir	1700	2 km u/s Cahir	4-5	24	4	30	Y
Suir	1900	Cahir Park Br	4	35	4	30	Y
Suir	2000	Ardfinnan Bridge	3-4	24	4	30	Y
Suir	2200	Newcastle Bridge	4	22	4	30	Y
Suir	2300	Knocklofty Bridge	4-5	23	4	30	Y
Suir	2400	Marfield, u/s Clonmel	4	15	4-5.	20	Y
Suir	2600	Twomilebridge	3-4	26	3	70	Y
Suir	2700	Kilsheelan Bridge	3	20	3-4.	50	Y
Suir	2750	N. of Churchtown House	3-4		3-4.	50	Y
King River	200	At Garrynoe	4		4	30	Y
Dead	100	Popes Bridge	3-4	78	3-4.	50	Y

 Table 1.6 River stations, which **did not** comply with either Standard

River Name	Station	Station Location Name	Current Q	Current MRP	Target 2007	Target 2007	Target Met
Anner	100	Bridge just N. of Drangan	3	95	3-4.	50	N
Anner	340	Br d/s Mullinahone Branch	3		3-4.	50	N
Anner	400	Bridge in Mullinahone	3	73	3-4.	50	N
Anner	600	Drummon Bridge	3-4	65	4	30	N
Ara	100	Bridge S.E. of Shronell	3-4	73	3-4.	50	N
Ara	300	1 km d/s Tipperary nr Railway Br	3	203	3-4.	50	N
Ara	500	Bansha Bridge	3	110	4	30	N
Ara	600	Ara Bridge, 2.8 km d/s Bansha	3-4	120	4	30	N
Ara	700	Ara Bridge, u/s Aherlow River	3-4	110	4	30	N
Clashawley	80	Br at Farranalleen Ry Stat	3-4		4	30	N
Clashawley	100	Killenaule	2-3	74			N
Clashawley	300	Saucestown Bridge	3-4	38	4	30	N
Duag	1100	Br at S. end of Clogheen	3-4		4	30	N
Fidaghta	100	Br near Aughnagower X-Roads	3-4	38	4	30	N
Lingaun	400	Bridge near Annsborough Ho	4	21	4-5.	20	N
Moyle	200	Ballinavoher Bridge	3	73	3-4.	50	N
Moyle	400	Bridge u/s Anner River	3-4	14	4	30	N
Outeragh Str.	150	Br W. of Outeragh	3		4	30	N
Outeragh Str.	200	Bridge u/s Suir River confl	3	24	4	30	N
Half Way House Stream	300	Br to N.W. of Halfway House	2		3-4.	50	N
Suir	1500	Golden Bridge	3-4	31	4	30	N
Suir	1600	Br near Suirville House	3-4	31	4	30	N

Table 1.6 Continued River stations, which did not comply with either Standard

River Name	Station	Station Location Name	Current Q	Current MRP	Target 2007	Target 2007	Target Met
Suir	1930	Ford 1.8 km d/s Cahir Park Bridge	3-4		4	30	N
Suir	2850	1.5 km u/s Carrick-on-Suir	3		3-4.	50	N
Munster	450	Bridge u/s Main Chan confl	3-4		4	30	N
Anner	100	Bridge just N. of Drangan	3	95	3-4.	50	N
Anner	340	Br d/s Mullinahone Branch	3		3-4.	50	N
Anner	400	Bridge in Mullinahone	3	73	3-4.	50	N
Anner	600	Drummon Bridge	3-4	65	4	30	N
Ara	100	Bridge S.E. of Shronell	3-4	73	3-4.	50	N
Ara	300	1 km d/s Tipperary nr Railway Br	3	203	3-4.	50	N
Ara	500	Bansha Bridge	3	110	4	30	N
Ara	600	Ara Bridge, 2.8 km d/s Bansha	3-4	120	4	30	N
Ara	700	Ara Bridge, u/s Aherlow River	3-4	110	4	30	N
Clashawley	80	Br at Farranalleen Ry Stat	3-4		4	30	N
Clashawley	100	Killenaule	2-3	74			N
Clashawley	300	Saucestown Bridge	3-4	38	4	30	N
Duag	1100	Br at S. end of Clogheen	3-4		4	30	N
Fidaghta	100	Br near Aughnagower X-Roads	3-4	38	4	30	N
Lingaun	400	Bridge near Annsborough Ho	4	21	4-5.	20	N
Moyle	200	Ballinavoher Bridge	3	73	3-4.	50	N
Moyle	400	Bridge u/s Anner River	3-4	14	4	30	N
Outeragh Str.	150	Br W. of Outeragh	3		4	30	N
Outeragh Str.	200	Bridge u/s Suir River confl	3	24	4	30	N
Half Way House Stream	300	Br to N.W. of Halfway House	2		3-4.	50	N
Suir	1500	Golden Bridge	3-4	31	4	30	N
Suir	1600	Br near Suirville House	3-4	31	4	30	N
Suir	1930	Ford 1.8 km d/s Cahir Park Bridge	3-4		4	30	N
Suir	2850	1.5 km u/s Carrick-on-Suir	3		3-4.	50	N
Munster	450	Bridge u/s Main Chan confl	3-4		4	30	N

Section 2 Implementation of Measures

Details are provided in **Appendix B** of this report on South Tipperary County Councils progress in implementing the measures put forward in its Measures Report submitted in 1999. The layout is in the tabular format requested by the Environmental Protection Agency in their Guidance Note.

Section 3 Progress to Date

The measures adopted by South Tipperary Co. Co. in its Measures Report are considered under the following five headings.

- 3.1 Planning, Control and Enforcement Measures
- 3.2 Consultative and Co-Operative Measures
- 3.3 Monitoring Measures
- 3.4 Public Education and Advisory Measures
- 3.5 Other Agri-environmental and Financial Measures

This Section sets out, under each of the above listed headings, the measures recommended in the Measures Report and in line with the Phosphorus Regulation guidelines, the progress made to-date, the problems which were encountered and future plans.

3.1 Planning Control and Enforcement Measures

- Water Quality Management Planning Measures

- Develop and Implement Catchment Management Plan
- Groundwater aquifer plans
- Draw up Sludge Management Plan
- Adopt an Environmental Management System
- GIS applications

- Planning and Control measures

Point Source Discharges

- Issue and Enforcement of Section 4 discharge licenses
- Review of section 4 licenses
- Issue and Enforcement of Section 16 licenses
- Review of Section 16 licenses
- Upgrade Wastewater treatment works
- Control of discharges from septic tanks and other small-scale sewage treatment systems either through the planning system or through licensing. *
- Farm Surveys*
- Catchment Surveys for point source pollution from licensed/unlicensed discharges*
- Control on quarries, sheep dips*
- Prosecution for other contraventions of the Principal Act*

Non - Point Source Discharges

Control of agricultural Activities under section 21 of 1990 act (Bylaws)
Assess the Need for NMP under Section 21A Water Pollution Act
Control / Restrict Aerial Fertilization
Farm Surveys*
Review land spreading for both licensed and non-licensed Intensive Agricultural Enterprises
Prosecution for contravention of the Principal Act.

- **General Enforcement Measures**

Utilize and enforce provisions of the Water Pollution Acts and Regulations
Enforce Section 3 Water Pollution Act
Issue and enforce notices under section 10 (remedy effects of pollution)
Section 12 (require measures to prevent pollution) notices
Enforcement of Section 14 (Notification of accidental spillage)

* Measures not previously listed

3.1.1 Progress

Water Quality Management Planning:

Catchment Management Plans:

The Three Rivers Project, which commenced in September 1998 published its Final Report in November 2002. The Final Report puts forward strategies and measures to address pollution from five major source categories. These strategies and measures will play a key role in the implementation of the Phosphorus Regulations in South Tipperary. South Tipperary County Council working with other local authorities in the Suir Catchment has commenced implementation of the Projects recommendations.

The local authority continues to implement on an ongoing basis its:

- Groundwater Protection Scheme, 1998
- Waste Management Plan, 1999
- Sludge Management Plan, 1999

Environmental Management System: The Council has put in place an EMS which is currently being implemented within its Planning, Environment & Waste Management Sections. The objective of the EMS is to improve performance of environmental functions, demonstrate compliance with environmental legislation and

communication. Implementation of the EMS should lead to more efficient use of resources and better overall performance with regard to the environmental protection obligations of the Council.

GIS Applications: All available data sets relating to water quality management have been inputted to the GIS system and following training are being used and up-dated on a daily basis. A GIS Co-Coordinator supervises GIS data management and is responsible for ensuring the accurate up dating of information, interaction with LGCSB in researching new information, as well as providing a training and support service.

Planning and control measures

Point Source discharges Licensing

The Council has adopted the policy on licensing of trade effluent discharges agreed by the local authorities within the River Suir Catchment. During this reporting period South Tipperary County Council has issued new or reviewed discharge licenses for the following facilities.

1.	Clonmel Healthcare	New (Sewer)
2.	Enfer Laboratories	New(Sewer)
3.	Shreelawn Oil	New(Sewer)
4.	Coolmore Stud	New (Water)
5.	Estuary Fuels, Cashel	Reviewed(Sewer)
6.	Frank Meagher, Fethard	Reviewed(Sewer)
7.	Guidant, Clonmel	Reviewed(Sewer)
8.	Morrison Motors, Cahir	Reviewed(Sewer)
9.	Pierce Swift, Tipperary	Reviewed(Sewer)
10.	Pierce Motors, Tipperary	Reviewed(Sewer)
11.	Walsh Coaches, Fethard	Reviewed(Sewer)
12.	Ballylynch SS, Carrick	Reviewed(Sewer)
13.	Swiss Cottage, Cahir	Reviewed(Water)

Point Source discharges -Urban Wastewater Discharges (Upgrades)

South Tipperary County Council has entered into a 20 year contract with Earth Tech Ireland Ltd whereby that company will operate and build or upgrade where stipulated 12 wastewater treatment plants. The Contractor is responsible for the design, supply, construction, installation, testing, commissioning and operation for a period of twenty years of all plant, equipment and ancillary items necessary to provide new wastewater treatment works for the following urban areas:

Treatment Plant	PE	BOD	Tot. SS	COD	Tot P	Amm.	Total Nit.
Carrick-on Suir	Phase 1 (11,000) Phase 2 (16,500)	20	30	125	1.0	5	15
Ardfinnan	1,100	20	30	125	1.0	5	20
Ballyporeen	1,000	20	30	125	1.0	5	20
Ballyclerihan	2,000	5	5	125	1.0	5	10
Clogheen	1,000	20	30	125	1.0	5	20

Some key Points of this Contract

- P removal is required at each plant
- Flow measurement for influent, flow to full treatment, storm flows, final effluent, sludge return, sludge waste and supernatant return.
- At Carrick-on-Suir continuous measurement of effluent suspended solids, ammonia and phosphate shall be carried out.
- fixed refrigerated automatic flow proportional composite samplers shall be provided for the influent and effluent.
- All overflows to the river shall be screened.

The Contractors will also be responsible for taking over, upgrading, operating and maintaining existing wastewater treatment works at the following locations:

Treatment Plant	PE	BOD	Tot SS	COD	Tot. P	Amm.	Total Nitrogen
Clonmel	80,000	25	35	125	1.0		
Cahir	5,000	20	30	125	1.0		
Cahel	6,000	20	30	125	1.0		
Fethard	2,000	5	5	125	1.0	10	20
Killenaule	1,200	5	5	125	1.0	10	20
Kilsheelan	1,000	20	30	125			
Tipperary Town	9,800	5	5	100	1.0		

The Contractor provides refrigerated automatic flow proportional samplers for the Influent and final effluent monitoring.

Control of Septic tanks: Regulation of septic tanks and small-scale sewage treatment systems continues to be provided for in the Planning

system. The Councils *County Development Plan* provide guidance for the provision of on-site WWTP in accordance with EPA Manuals for both single dwelling house and small communities.

Farm Suveys: South Tipperary County Council has allocated considerable resources to tackling pollution from the agricultural sector in view of its significant impact on water quality. During the two year period since the last Implementation Report was issued 641 farms have been inspected and a risk assessment carried out on each. Farm yards with significant defects and as such, likely to give rise to water pollution, are issued with a Section 10 or Section 12 Notice where necessary. 42 Section 12 Notices were issued in the past two years.

Non-Point discharges

Review licensed and unlicensed land spreading: 48 piggeries have been identified in the County. Spread lands for 28 of these have been submitted and mapped, following a request under Section 23 of the Water Pollution Act for this information. Each piggery for which information has been submitted has been rated according to its pollution potential. A limited amount of information on spread lands for IPC piggeries has also been obtained.

There are 27 mushroom developments in the County. 25 have NMP's as part of Planning Permission and the other 2 have been written to requesting information on spread lands.

Forestry: Co-operation between the Council and Coillte continues to be good in respect of Forestry Management. Coillte co-operate closely with and take guidance from the local authority with regard to aerial fertilization. There was also valuable co-operation with Coillte on the provision of forestry maps.

General Enforcement of Water Pollution Act

- Four (successful) Section 3 prosecutions
- 46 Section 12 Notices Issued and enforced

Staff Resources: South Tipperary has significantly reinforced its environmental technical staff over the past two years with the recruitment of one Executive Scientist and three Assistant Scientists. The Council has two Environmental Technicians working fulltime on

farm surveys & investigations. Licensing of effluent discharges and planning issues is handled by the Executive Scientist.

3.1.2 Problems Encountered

Data Collection: Problems are still being encountered with regard to accessing information on Integrated Pollution Control licenses. Activities licensed by the EPA such as industrial facilities and Intensive Agricultural Enterprises contribute a significant nutrient and organic load. While information on each particular license is available on the EPA website access to information on actual quantities discharged or land spread is proving difficult. Proper catchment management is unlikely to be achieved unless all the necessary information on pollution inputs is readily available to the local authority, which has the responsibility of managing the water resources within their County.

Catchment Envisage: While Catchment Envisage is a valuable tool in catchment management its use was hampered significantly due to its complexity. South Tipperary County Council in common with most local authorities who were provided with the software package felt it was unsuitable for their own specific needs. The LGCSB working closely with local authorities is re-developing the farms module section and linking it in to Labinfo laboratory database package.

3.1.3 Future Plans

Three Rivers: The Three Rivers Suir Catchment Project recommendations will continue to form the basis of much of the Councils policy in the coming years. The Council is committed to implementing the recommendations made in as far as its resources allow it to do so. Working with other neighboring local authorities, policies on monitoring of wastewater treatment plants, licensing of trade effluent discharges, undertaking farm surveys and identification of hot spot areas and remedial action have been issued. The objective being to achieve best practice and a harmonized approach to such activities.

Data acquisition and handling: Improved data collection, handling and utilization will be an important focus point over couple of years. The Council is anxious to utilize the benefits of GIS systems to its maximum and have recruited a full time GIS coordinator to achieve this. The objective will be to have all relevant information on discharges and

spread lands in GIS format and updated regularly to enable proper assessment of river inputs and corrective actions.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrading:

The Grouped Operation Scheme (GOS) will result in a very significant upgrading of the plants covered by that contract. Tertiary treatment and Phosphorous removal will be provided where receiving water quantity and/or quality deem it necessary. The contract will also free up considerable staff resources to enable improved supervision and management of wastewater plants not covered by that contract.

3.2 Measure Consultative and Co-operative Measures

3.2.1 Progress

A co-operative approach across all sectors has been identified as the key to success in a number of catchment programmes across the Country including the Three Rivers Project. The Council is currently putting in place the Catchment Management Structure advocated by the Three Rivers Project. The Council played a leading role in the formation of '*Technical Liasion Group*' for the River Suir Catchment. This group reviews and formulates best practice for the management of various pollution pressures. The group will also seek to achieve a consistent best practice approach throughout the whole catchment.

The Council accepts that it is important to have relevant stakeholders actively engaged in and participating in the management of our river catchments. Stakeholders from the agricultural and commercial sectors will be informed of current water quality status and their views will be sought when formulating Council policy. It is intended to establish a consultative group involving major stakeholders and have their input and backing for environmental protection policies within the catchment.

The Council has ongoing consultation with Coilte and the Southern Regional Fisheries

3.2.2 Problems Encountered

The main problem encountered over this reporting period is staff retention and having sufficient staff resources needed to implement policy and continually audit and reassess the actions and measures specified in the Measures Implementation Report and in the Water Quality Technical Review meetings.

3.2.3 Future Plans

Improve communication with stakeholders and general public.

The Council aware of the importance of having relevant stakeholders actively engaged in and participating in the management of our river catchments. Stakeholders from the agricultural and commercial sectors will be informed of current water quality status and their views will be sought when formulating Council policy.

3.3 Measure Environmental Monitoring

South Tipperary County Council has its own environmental laboratory, which is engaged in drinking water testing, effluent discharges testing, and sampling in relation to investigations. The Kilkenny Environmental Inspectorate carries out all the routine chemical and biological monitoring of the rivers within the County.

3.3.1 Progress

Significant progress has been made in both hydrometric monitoring and discharge monitoring in recent years. The objective of the monitoring programme is to provide sufficient information to enable proper catchment management. This objective is currently being met in most areas with the exception of monitoring information on IPC licensed facilities and spread lands. The Councils monitoring programme and provision in licensing provide sufficient information on urban wastewater discharge and licensed discharge loadings.

3.3.2 Problems Encountered

No monitoring or ‘spot checks’ occurs outside office hours. Unregulated discharges could be taking place without the Councils knowledge. Small scale UWWTP are difficult to monitor using automatic sampling and flow recorders.

3.3.3 Future Plans

Improved integration and sharing of information between the various monitoring groups is a key Council objective. The Council is currently using Labinfo and Mapinfo computer software packages for the storing of monitoring data. Importing environmental information from other agencies and exporting data via Labinfo will improve data assessment and handling.

3.4 Measure Public Education and Advisory Measures

3.4.1 Progress

Public awareness was an important aspect of the Three Rivers Project in promoting the importance of water quality and was managed on a number of levels. The Council are currently updating its Internet website to enable better public access to environmental data and information. A Public Awareness Officer was recruited during 2004

3.5 Measure National Agri-Environmental

3.5.1 Progress

The Council continues to encourage the participation of farmers in the Rural Environment Protection Scheme and as stated previously have assisted Teagasc in the provision of information by means of seminars/talks etc. on environmental control and quality.

The main progress made to-date in liaison/education programs with agricultural groups within the County have been undertaken by the Three Rivers Project.

Summary

Chemical and biological monitoring of water quality in South Tipperary indicates that there was only a marginal improvement in quality since submission of the measures report in 1999. 55% of the monitoring sites comply with the interim standards set in the Phosphorous Regulations. Water quality has improved at 21 sites, remained unchanged at 46 sites and deteriorated at a further 15 sites compared to the baseline data (1999). One notable feature is that there has been a significant reduction in the number of sites classed as Marginally Polluted and an increase in the number of sites classified as being Slightly Polluted.

South Tipperary County Council has allocated considerable resources to water quality management since submission of its Measures Report in 1999. Increased staff resources have been allocated to effluent discharge licensing and enforcement, operating and monitoring of municipal wastewater treatment plants and undertaken farm surveys to identify substandard farmyards and farm practices and remedial action taken.

Major difficulties encountered include retention of technical staff after training and obtaining sufficient environmental data from all sectors in a timely manner to enable improved catchment management. In particular the Council recognizes the significance of Integrated Pollution Control licensed activities within the county. Obtaining information on such licenses has proven problematic. This is one particular area, which the Council is trying to address. Data handling and data management should be at the core of Catchment Management.

Without having all the available information such as Hydrometric data, point discharge data and agricultural data, management of our river catchments will be poor.

Conclusion

Currently available monitoring data clearly shows that meeting the water quality targets will require a co-ordinated and planned approach. Improvement in water quality since submission of the initial Measures Report has been disappointing given the considerable resources South Tipperary County Council has allocated to this key Council objective. It is hoped that a more dramatic improvement s can be obtained in future years now that resources are in place.

Management of our river catchments require the availability of all data on pressures or inputs. South Tipperary County Council has allocated considerable resources to develop Geographical Information Systems and an Environmental Management System. However data acquisition

and handling for major sectors such as Integrated Pollution Control and agricultural sectors is proving problematic thus compromising the Councils ability to manage water quality. It is hoped that this situation can be corrected in the near future.

Appendix A

Table 1.1

River Water Quality standards to be Achieved by 2007

Appendix B

TABLE 2.1

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME SUMMARY TABLE FOR TIPPERARY SR
COUNTY COUNCIL AREA

And

TABLE 2.2

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME SUMMARY TABLE FOR RIVERS IN
TIPPERARY SR AREA

Appendix C

Three River Project Sub-catchment Management Sheets
Example River Channel Survey Sheets

Appendix D

Section 4 Licences to discharge to waters and rivers

Section 16 Licences to discharge to sewers and rivers

Water Licences awaiting review

Sewer Licences waiting review

List of Section 12 Notices issued during reporting period

Details of piggeries located within County

Hydrometric Stations in South Tipperary

Appendix E

Water Quality Technical Review Meeting Action Sheets

Appendix F

Thematic map of river water quality (Q Value) at baseline
Thematic map of river water quality (Q Value) current (1999)
Thematic map of target river water quality (Q Value) at 2007

