18. DISPOSAL OF SODIUM MONOFLUROACETATE

Officer responsible City Water & Waste Manager	**Author** Klaus Prusas, DDI 371 1824

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for a quantity of treated material containing sodium monofluroacetate (1080) to be disposed to landfill.

BACKGROUND

Earlier this year the Department of Conservation (West Coast) together with a Christchurch based chemical waste treatment operator, (Chemwaste Industries Ltd), approached the Council on how they should proceed with a request to dispose of treated waste containing sodium monofluroacetate with some stabilised copper contamination. The material results from activities on the West Coast and was transported to Christchurch for treatment by Chemwaste Industries Ltd, an authorised chemical waste treatment operator. This operator treats a range of waste materials. The total quantity of material containing the 1080 is in the order of 45 tonnes.

Sodium monofluroacetate (the active ingredient in bait pellet/paste form) is used for rabbit/possum control, in this case possum control on the West Coast. The reason for disposal was advised that the bait was old and spoiled stock (10 years plus) having lost its active ingredient and therefore potential for baiting.

The treatment process carried out has reduced the concentration of 1080 in the waste material from 740 micrograms/per gram (parts per million) at the time of arrival in Christchurch to now 40 micrograms/per gram. Leachate tests carried out when the concentration had reduced to 560 micrograms/per gram gave a result of 3 micrograms per millilitre. At the current concentration of 40 micrograms/per gram the leachate results would be considerably lower again. The original active ingredient for this bait would have been in the order of 1,500 micrograms/per gram. All the above results have come from a Telarc registered laboratory.

In considering this application it should be borne in mind that 1080 is presently used in the environment to control pests under controlled conditions at optimum pest control ingredient rates. Therefore in the context of the present low levels following treatment, there will be little if any impact on the environment, and further given the controlled conditions/environment of the landfill further degradation will occur. The waste material would be spread to facilitate the further degradation and covered immediately on arrival at the landfill.

To put it more simply the 45 tonnes waste contained 33.3 kg of 1080 on arrival pre-treatment, it now post-treatment contains 1.8 kg, an amount which will have no noticeable effect at Burwood.

The Council over the years has been at the forefront, and extremely active in encouraging and promoting the development of processes (including waste minimisation/reuse/recovery/recycling) and facilities for the treatment of “special/difficult” wastes. The City now has a number of operators willing and capable of treating a range of wastes and it is in the region's and the City’s interests that this continue.

CONCLUSION

The conclusion is that this material can be safely accepted at the Landfill.

The Council's Hazardous Waste Advisory Service in dealing with hazardous waste disposal requests, investigates each request before approval to dispose is granted. This ensures that the best practical solution/treatment is carried out and that safe environmental outcomes and compliance is achieved.

Recommendation: That disposal of this treated waste material containing sodium monofluroacetate be approved subject to any conditions that the Council's Hazardous Waste Advisory Service may impose. (These conditions will include disposal, concentration and leachate rates, and handling conditions at the Landfill).

Chairman’s Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.