

## EmP07 – Emission of Silt to Surface Watercourse

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### What needs to be done?

The following actions need to be taken when silt levels exceed any discharge licence requirements:

1. If it appears that any water being discharged into any local watercourse is cloudy, contains a high level of silt, or other suspended solids, then the situation should be reported to site management immediately
2. A supervisor/manager should assess the situation with the aim of preventing/limiting further pollution
3. If water is being pumped to the discharge as part of dewatering activities/is flowing from a settlement pond, then such discharges should be stopped and valves closed whilst the cause is investigated
4. A sample of the water should be taken from the discharge point (if safe to do so) and sent for analysis. Once the results are received these should be kept on file and, if required by the planning permission or waste management licence/permit, be submitted to the relevant regulatory bodies
5. Once the source has been identified, consider whether the flow of silt or suspended solids through the discharge pipe can be stopped or reduced
6. Implement necessary actions to improve water quality
7. If necessary, undertake remedial works to clear the silt from the controlled watercourse, in conjunction with the Environment Agency
8. Only restart the discharge when the suspended solid level is below the consented level
9. When practicable, the incident must be formally investigated, recorded and reported using the appropriate forms, including circulation to the relevant authorities.

**Note:** If water analysis results from routine sampling identify that the level of suspended solids in the discharge have exceeded the permitted level and the issue has not already been identified and remedial actions taken, then actions should be implemented from step 2 to identify whether such conditions persist. (In such cases it is likely that the sample was taken some time previously, maybe two weeks, hence it is not necessarily the case that such conditions remain.) In this case, consideration should be given to the circumstances at the time of the incident (including weather, operational activities, etc) to identify the source and what actions may be implemented to prevent recurrence. Such cases also need to be formally recorded and reported as per step 9.



**Telephone numbers:**

Emergency services: .....

Environment Agency: .....

Responsible manager: .....

Managing director: .....

Geotechnical engineer/advisor: .....

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**Associated documentation**

**Forms**

- EF03 – Internal Communication
- EF15 – Incident Investigation

