



NEWS RELEASE

OCS Persnickety Solves Odour Nuisance Problem for ELF Oil

persnickety®; n.

- Showing extremely careful treatment
- Fussy, fastidious

Testimonial

"Initially we were a bit sceptical about the new countervailant but we are delighted with the results. Our new permanent odour system means that we can now tackle any smells that may occur in the future." says Superintendent, John Richards

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Contact

For further information, please contact:
Mr Naylor - 01244 536700

Before being discharged into the sea via the Milford Haven estuary, all the water used in the ELF Oil Refinery process and any run-off rain water, passes through separators into a holding basin where corrugated plate interceptors skim off any surface oil. From this basin the water is then pumped up to the first of three large lagoons where the sediment is allowed to settle out.

By the biological oxygen demand system, the water is fed through each lagoon in turn, with a residence time in each, before being discharged into the sea. The quality of the water at the discharge point is continuously monitored by both ELF and The National Rivers Authority to ensure that it conforms to the accepted refinery specification for effluent.

During hot weather, an unpleasant odour was being given off from the lagoons. This was caused by the sun bringing to the surface small amounts of oil, which had been carried through the system. To eradicate this, the decision was taken to clean out the three lagoons in turn. ELF was conscious that during the cleaning of the lagoons, the unpleasant smell would be multiplied and therefore a serious problem and as it has always taken its environmental responsibilities very seriously, the company set about finding the most effective way of controlling any smells and therefore avoiding complaints from the neighbouring community.

Following a recommendation from Welsh Water, ELF called in Odour Control specialists, OCS and as a result a trial using OCS Persnickety Odour Countervailant was implemented.

OCS supplied a custom designed dosing system to suit the particular application and feed at the correct rate, Persnickety Odour Countervailant solution to a series of specialised atomising spray lances. The lances were strategically placed around the edges of the lagoon to spray countervailant into the air to give effective odour control during dredging.

The results of the trial proved to be so encouraging that a permanent OCS odour control installation was installed in the lagoon area. This was to be used, not only for the cleaning out project but also as an insurance for the future. ELF will be able to use the equipment and countervailant during hot periods to eliminate any unpleasant smells.

The actual cleaning of the lagoons passed without a hitch, some 20 years of silt being removed without a single complaint from the local community. The silt was mixed with fertiliser and ploughed back into land on the ELF site, again under strict supervision from the relevant authorities.

Says Jetty and Oil Movements Superintendent, John Richards – **“We had no complaints during cleaning. In hot water, the high temperatures and general lack of wind did cause a smell and we have had an awful lot of complaints from our neighbours.”**

“Initially we were a bit sceptical about the new countervailant but we are delighted with the results. Our new permanent odour system means that we can now tackle any smells that may occur in the future.”

ELF is currently investing heavily in environmental projects including a new water treatment facility to stop silting and a £36m plant to increase the production of unleaded fuel.

preserving the environment

Odour Control Systems Ltd
33a Castle Close, Manor Lane
Hawarden Industrial Park
Hawarden, Flintshire CH5 3QX

Phone: +44 (0)1244 536700
Fax: +44 (0)1244 535184
E-mail: mail@odourcontrolsystems.ltd.uk
Web: www.odourcontrolsystems.ltd.uk



Certificate No. 7174

