

Network

A newsletter for air quality monitoring networks **Issue 2**

Sponsored by the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions

www.stanger.co.uk/siteinfo/

Site Information Archive Launched

The new Site Information Archive (www.stanger.co.uk/siteinfo/) was launched in October last year. The Archive represents an important step in the dissemination of information to the public and research workers who make use of the Network data and will assist the UK in fulfilling obligations under the new EC Directive.

Hosted by Stanger Science and Environment (SSE), the Site Information Archive provides information on each monitoring station within the UK Automatic Air Quality Monitoring Network, including sites in the London Air Quality and Hydrocarbon Networks. Information includes a description of the site, the site address, and the pollutants measured, together with a location map and photographs showing the installation and 360 degree views around it. In addition, Local Site Operators (LSOs) can contact SSE through the web-site to inform SSE of local events that may influence air pollution

levels within the vicinity of the monitoring station (e.g. roadworks, or other nearby construction activity). Such events will be entered in the 'Notes' section and facilitate in interpreting anomalous readings in pollution levels. Direct links are also provided from the Site Information Archive to the Air Quality Archive hosted by NETCEN. Users are therefore able to check on pollution data for each site of interest.

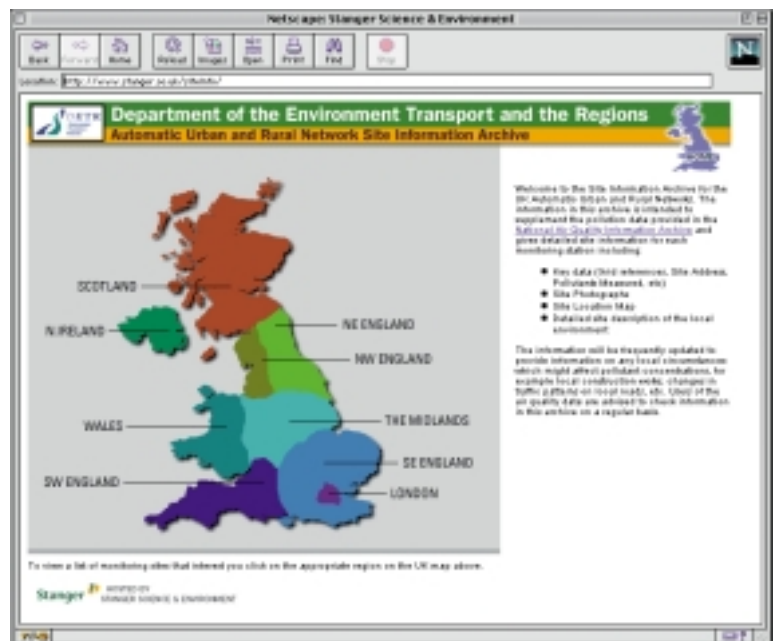
The Archive represents the end-point of an effort by many people within the Network. In particular, SSE would like to thank all LSOs for providing the information (e.g. location, pollutants, description of the surrounding roads, etc.) included in the Archive. In order to maintain the Archive, SSE will carry out annual updates.

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Update for Affiliate Sites

In issue one of NETWORK we reported on the implications of Millennium (Y2K) Compliance for network air quality monitoring in the UK, in particular the position of the affiliated sites. Initial response to a questionnaire developed by SSE was very low – 25%. By the time of the Annual Review Meeting held in September 1998, response to the questionnaire had increased to 60%, however, a distinct lack of information concerning warranties indicated that the affiliated sites were far from ensuring that monitoring would continue after the year 2000.

Recent analysis of the Y2K position for affiliates indicates that currently more than 90% of the affiliate sites have now responded to Y2K issues with varying levels of success. For many LSOs greater clarification of previously unknown (“don’t know”) compliance issues has been obtained (see graphic), however, it appears that for certain pieces of equipment ESUs are unwilling to give assurances until all investigations and tests have been completed. Hence, there still remains a level of uncertainty with respect to these items.

The obtaining of guarantees and Y2K statements will allow LSOs recourse should equipment fail at midnight on the 31 December, 1999. It is important that LSOs obtain written assurances from ESUs with regards to Y2K Compliance for each piece of equipment used at their sites. This issue has been recently highlighted by the case with Signal Ambitech. Assurance of Y2K compliance for all Ambirak Systems was originally given, but some LSOs have subsequently been notified that the first eleven systems have been identified as having compliance problems due to the configuration of the wiring. The problem is easily rectified through the use of either millennium compliant upgrades of existing software versions, or a rewire consistent with the configuration of the current software version. The case highlights the point of the ‘moving-beast’ nature of Y2K compliance and emphasises the importance of approaching ESUs for written proof of Y2K status, and the upgrading of non-compliant equipment as soon as possible.

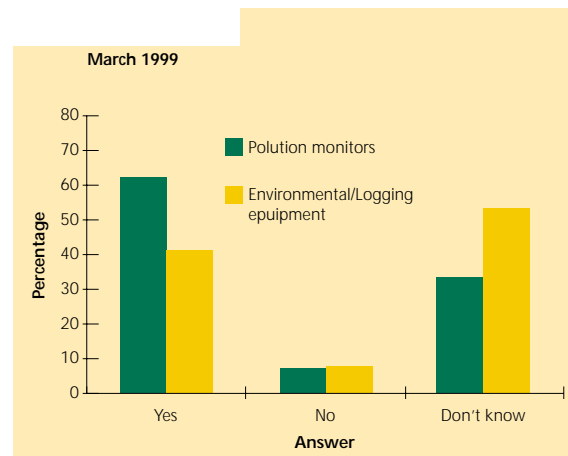
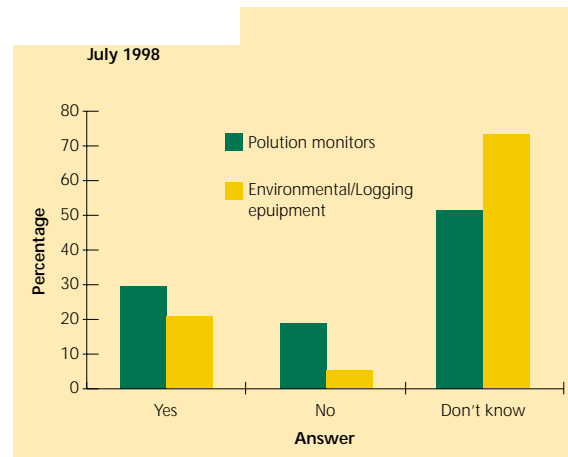
*For guidance on Millennium Compliance contact :
Dr Richard Maggs (0181 256 4855).*

Annual Review Meeting

The 8th Annual Review Meeting for members of the Network was held at the National Exhibition Centre (NEC), Birmingham, on September 18th, 1998. More than 90 participants attended to listen to presentations by the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) and NETCEN, in their capacity as QA/QC Unit and by Stanger Science and Environment in its role as the Central Management & Co-ordination Unit (CMCU). Equipment Support Units (ESUs), ETi Group and Signal Ambitech were also present.

The Annual Review Meeting succeeds in offering direct contact for Local Site Operators (LSOs), not only with one another but also with the management and support units. The value of this contact was particularly evident at this years’ meeting when the issue of Millennium (Y2K) Compliance was raised and ESUs were available for comment and input into discussions surrounding the implications of Y2K for the Network. The format of the meeting has been developed over the years. However, feedback from a number of participants regarding this years’ meeting indicated that most participants would like to see some increased involvement from LSOs, possibly through involvement in presentations.

Additional copies of the Speakers’ Notes for those who were unable to attend are available upon request from: Dr Richard Maggs (0181 256 4855).



Affiliated sites Year 2000 v status –
July 1998 and March 1999

DETR Publications

On the back of its recent consultation document reviewing the National Air Quality Strategy, the DETR have published a number of reports surrounding air pollution within the UK. These include :

- *Source Apportionment of Airborne Particulate Matter in the United Kingdom.* The Report of Airborne Particles Expert Group (APEG)
- *An Economic Analysis of the National Air Quality Strategy Objectives.* The Report on the Inter-Departmental Group on Costs and Benefits (IGCB)
- *Quantification of the Health Effects of Air Pollution in the UK for the Review of the National Air Quality Strategy*
- *Predicting PM₁₀ Concentration in the UK*
- *An Empirical Model for Estimating Roadside Nitrogen Dioxide Concentrations in the UK*
- *An Empirical Model for Quantifying Current and Future Benzene and 1,3-Butadiene Concentrations at the Roadside*

All the above publications are available on the internet:

<http://www.aeat.co.uk/netcen/airqual>

General enquiries and further copies: 0171 890 6295 or 6297.

Also available,

- *The Report of the Group on Economic Appraisal of the Health Effects of Air Pollution (EAHEAP)* published by the Department of Health.

Available on the internet (executive summary only):

<http://www.doh.gov.uk/hel/airpol/airpolh.htm>

Further copies are also available from: The Stationary Office, Price £17.50, ISBN 0-11-322272-6.



It's been a busy time for all those involved in the Network and indeed, all those involved in air quality within the UK. The Annual Review Meeting in September last year highlighted the Network's on-going development with, amongst other things, proposed advances in electronic technology relating to site operations and the launch of the Site Information Archive. On a wider scale, the value of the Network as a resource for workers and researchers in the field of air pollution has been further realised through the Review and Assessment procedures currently being undertaken by all local authorities for Local Air Quality Management under the auspices of the National Air Quality Strategy. The importance of the Network operations cannot be under-estimated. Through the continued efforts of all those involved the contribution of its operations in satisfying increasing legislation requirements and public information can only be further recognised.

Encouragingly, feedback from the Annual Review Meeting gave a big 'thumbs-up' for *NETWORK* highlighting an obvious need for some mechanism to disseminate news and developments of the Network to its participants. As stated in the first edition, *NETWORK* is your newsletter. It's for you to use, so if you've got any news, articles, or just funny anecdotes of experiences on site then send them in.

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Editor

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Acknowledgment:

Many thanks to the following people who have contributed to this edition of *NETWORK*: Trudie McMullen, Jane Vallance-Plews, Steve Moorcroft and Jon Alexander

News update

Local Site Operator's Manual

QA/QC Unit has recently up-dated the Local Site Operator's manual. The new numbered copies of the manual will be distributed during the Winter 98/99 inter-calibration exercise. If you have not received your new manual by the end of May, please contact Steve Telling at NETCEN on 01235 463028. It would also be helpful if you could complete the questionnaire sent out with the manual and return it to the QA/QC Unit by fax on 01235 463011.

Accreditation

NETCEN has been awarded NAMAS accreditation (Ref: Calibration Laboratory 0401) for the calibration of analysers undertaken as part of the 6-monthly inter-calibration and audit exercise. The accreditation, which currently covers calibration of the NO_x, SO₂ and CO analysers, means that this work carried out on-site by NETCEN meets the requirements of the BS EN ISO 9001 series and EN45001. This accreditation will serve to enhance the UK, European and International harmonisation of network measurements.

Who's Who?

SSE welcome to the CMCU unit a new member of staff. Nick Philips replaces Nigel Jenkins as Network Manager and will be undertaking Nigel's previous role with the exception of the TEOM Archive which will now be undertaken by Jeff Booker.

New Helpline

A new Pollutant Specific Guidance DETR Helpline, offering advice to Local Authorities with their Review and Assessments for Local Air Quality Management, has been set up and is run on behalf of the DETR by Air Quality Consultants and the University of the West of England.

Contact the helpline on: 0117 976 3837 or email on: aqm-review@uwe.ac.uk

WHO'S WHO?

Stanger Science & Environment

Project Manager:

Jeff Booker

Network Managers:

Ray Evans Tel: 0181 256 4859

Duncan Pritchard-Davies

Tel: 0181 256 4829

Nick Philips Tel: 0181 256 4858

data aquisition and dissemination

Jeff Booker Tel: 0181 256 4843

TEOM archive

QA/QC Urban

NETCEN

Head of QA/QC

Ken Stevenson

Field Operations Manager

Brian Stacey Tel: 01235 463177

calibrations and audits

Geoff Broughton Tel: 01235 463072

Paul Willis Tel: 01235 463191

data handling

Jane Vallance-Plews

Tel: 01235 463182

data ratification

QA/QC Rural

National Physical Laboratory

Project Manager

Paul Quincey

Bryan Sweeney

David Butterfield

Alan Woolley

Tel: 0181 943 6232

intercalibrations

cylinder supplies

Who does what in the Network?

The successful operation of the Network is dependent on the commitment and dedication from a large number of organisations, and the individuals within them. A brief reminder of who does what:

Central Management & Co-ordination Unit (CMCU):

Responsible for setting up new sites within the Network (including site selection and procurement of equipment); Network operation (appointment of ESUs and LSOs, co-ordination of equipment calibration and servicing); data collection and validation; data reporting.

Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) Units:

Responsible for providing independent QA/QC checks on Network operations. This includes routine inter-calibration audits and data ratification. The QA/QC Units also provide advice on operation issues to the CMCU.

Equipment Service Units (ESUs):

Responsible for the routine and emergency servicing of analysers and ancillary equipment.

Local Site Operators (LSOs):

Responsible for undertaking routine site calibrations. The LSOs also provide invaluable information and feedback on site performance to both CMCU and QA/QC Units, and undertake initial investigations of site problems.

For further information please contact:

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Stanger

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