



Pollution Control Policy (Water)

Higgins Construction PLC is one of the leading names in community regeneration and affordable housing for London and the South East. In addition to providing sustainable solutions to the region's housing shortages, we are acknowledged as one of the leading names for quality and value in education and healthcare construction.

As water pollution damages rivers, lakes, beaches, seas and drinking water and consequently human health and the environment, it is vital that we make efforts to reduce water pollution.

The policy is designed to supplement Higgins Construction PLC's Environmental Policy and makes the following commitments:

Higgins Construction PLC recognise in planning and carrying out any works, precautions must be taken to ensure the complete protection of watercourses and ground water against pollution. These should include an investigation of past use of the site to ensure that the operations will not disturb contaminated land and a survey of the siting and contents of all storage tanks and pipelines. The Industry profiles published by DEFRA will assist in identifying potential contamination and ways to reduce their impact, based on former industrial uses of the site. If there is any contaminated land on site, the Local Authority and local Agency Officer should be consulted on its remediation or disposal.¹

Implementation of Water Pollution Control Measures

All operatives must be aware of our policy to control and prevent water pollution on site to ensure the procedures that we have set in place are followed. The below measures must be explained to all operatives on site during their initial site induction and a copy of our Water Control Policy presented to them for their records. All sub-contractors are provided with our waste water policy along with our Environmental Policy, both of which must be adhered to as part of our contract conditions.

It is the responsibility of our Site Management to ensure these measures are being followed wherever practicable. If procedures are not being followed tool box talks should be held to re-emphasise the importance these procedures have on not only reducing the impact our construction works have on the environment, but also the legal obligations we have under the Environment Protection Act. Consistent failure or refusal to follow these measures will result in the operative or sub-contractor being asked to leave site.

Surface

- All surface water must discharge into a surface water drain
- All foul water must discharge into the foul water drain
- All oil and diesel drums must be stored on an impervious base with oil-tight bund with no drainage outlet. All drill pipes, fill pipes and sight gauges must also be stored on this bund².

¹ Environment Agency PPG6 Pollution Prevention Guidelines

² Environment Agency PPG1 General Guide to prevention of pollution

- Leaking or empty oil drums must be removed from site and disposed of via a licensed waste disposal contractor
- Water containing Silt should never be pumped directly into surface water drainage but be disposed of into a foul water connection
- Site roads must be regularly scraped or brushed to prevent the build up of mud and dust
- Mobile plant should be refuelled in a designated area on an impermeable surface away from drains or watercourses. A spill kit should be available at all times
- All skips should be covered by a suitable water tight cover or tarpaulin

Ground

- Excavations must be kept clear of ground and surface water where possible. One corner of each excavation should be used as a sump pit to pump water from excavations into a suitable foul water drain. This water should remain undisturbed by plant or personnel.
- All soil and materials such as sand must be covered at all times when not in use and covered by a tarpaulin. Where possible, loose materials must be delivered and stored on site in bulk bags.
- Concrete and concrete mixing plant should be cleaned on an impermeable surface and any arising waste water must not be allowed to flow into any drain or watercourse

EMERGENCIES

As stated in the Environment Agency's publication for Working at Construction and Demolition the following procedures must be followed in the event of an emergency spillage on site:

'In the event of a spillage on site, the material should be contained (using an absorbent material such as sand or soil or commercially available booms) and the Agency notified immediately using the emergency hotline number [below].

Environment agency emergency hotline for reporting all environmental incidents relating to air, land and water in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Emergency Hotline Tel: 0800 80 70 60



For and on behalf of the Board of Directors
Steve Leakey
 Managing Director
 August 2011

¹ Environment Agency PPG6 Pollution Prevention Guidelines

² Environment Agency PPG1 General Guide to prevention of pollution