

Services to the Insurance Industry

Loss of 13,000 litres of Petroleum from a Filling Station in Wales

A major loss of petroleum occurred from a ruptured underground storage tank at a petrol station.

An environmental consultant was appointed by the garage owner to investigate the extent of environmental damage and to implement appropriate remedial measures. Extensive environmental survey work had been undertaken and further works were being proposed.

Insurers became concerned about the financial costs being incurred and appointed Ecologia to conduct an appraisal of:

- the assessment works undertaken,
- the appropriateness of the remedial measures implemented, and
- the reasonableness of costs charged.

Ecologia reviewed all the available reports and correspondence before accompanying the loss adjuster to the site. A representative of the environmental consultant explained the works undertaken to date. It was apparent at this stage that the geology of the site was fairly complex, resulting in unpredictable contaminant migration pathways. Ecologia were able at this stage to provide insurers with a project review report which generally approved the works undertaken and fees charged by the other consultant.

Ecologia were subsequently requested to represent the insurer's interests at a Project Review meeting, involving the Environment Agency, the Local Authority, the Water Company, garage owners, and the other environmental consultant. A key role was to assist the insurers with an assessment of liability issues in relation to insurance policies and environmental legislation.

