



APPENDIX 4-6

SILT COMMITTEE INTERIM REPORT 1976

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In October 1975 a silt committee was set up to study the desirability and feasibility of removing silt from our bog effluents. After investigating the problem and visiting several milled peat works the committee produced an interim report and after discussions with the General Manager and myself made firm recommendations.

The interim report states that it is the opinion of the committee that the discharge of peat silt into streams can be reduced considerably by provision of adequate silt ponds and suitably designed drainage systems. The recommendations of the interim report are as follows:

- Provision of silt ponds should be a basic feature of new bog development for milled peat and their construction should be planned for all outlet systems.
- 2. Ideally, ponds should be located in cutaway bog.
- Sufficient area should be acquired at the initial stage to provide for silt ponds.
- In production bogs existing large catchments should be broken up into manageable proportions and ponds constructed to accord with local topography.
- Revision of drainage techniques should be considered such as arranging flatter gradients in external and internal outfalls and extending their width and length in their lower reaches to encourage settlement of silt.
- 6. Initial drainage effluent should be allowed to spill over face banks (where practicable) until adequate silt ponds have been provided. This should be applied to all new bog development immediately. Similarly, growth and vegetation should not be removed from external outfalls until interference with drainage and/or complaints force us to act. This latter measure would be short term.
- It is recommended that catchments to be protected by silt ponds should not be greater than 500 acres.
- Ponds should be designed for maximum run-off of l cu.ft. per minute per acre and run-off controlled by provision of small diameter culverts, weirs or sluices.
- For milled peat 50 sq.ft. of pond per acre of catchment. For 500 acres, 45 ft. wide x 555 ft. long x 7 ft. deep, i.e. 6 ft. max. or silt + 1 ft. min. of water.
- Ponds should be provided in pairs each sufficient for the catchment protected.
- 11. Ponds should be cleaned out at regular intervals as required but at least four times a year using a dragline or Hymac retained permanently for this purpose. Investigations to be made into the suitability of pumping units.

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