

Dear Keith

Thank you for your email. I can confirm that this significant pollution incident on the River Test has been designated Category 1.

On 15th June 2021 the Environment Agency received a report from environmental consultants (working for a fuel supply company) about a serious oil pollution incident impacting the River Test on the Nursling Industrial Estate. We were advised that oil had been found in monitoring wells and was found to be entering the surface water drainage system especially during heavy rainfall events. It has since been estimated that up to 20,000 litres of diesel has been lost into the ground. The fuel supply company has employed a specialist contractor to remove the oil from the ground so that it no longer poses a risk to the environment and to remediate their pollution.

Southern Water is responsible for the provision and maintenance of the surface water drainage system and so we (along with colleagues from Natural England) have been working closely with them to identify the source of the oil, gather evidence and ensure that a thorough clean-up is undertaken.

The Environment Agency is investigating the incident, and working closely with the fuel supply company in an advisory role to ensure that the risk of further pollution to both the watercourse and groundwater is addressed to our satisfaction. Going forward we will continue to provide advice to relevant parties on how to respond to this incident. Also, we are collecting evidence and will then consider our enforcement response in line with our Enforcement and Prosecution Policy.

I will ask my team leading on our response to keep you updated at key stages of progress

Yours sincerely

Simon Moody