

## **CIWEM East Midlands Branch Evening Meeting**

**Wednesday 24 November 2004**

### **Food For Thought**

Experiences from the first tranche of food and drink applications under PPC.

Howard Leberman (Environment Agency) and Gus Atri (Northern Foods) provided a stimulating presentation on the Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations to a mixed audience of around forty attendees. The presentation was of particular relevance to the food and drink sector due to apply between the 1 January and 31 March 2005.

Howard is the Environment Agency PPC Food and Drink Sector Co-ordinator. After a brief introduction on PPC in general he spoke about the available guidance and, of particular interest to some of the industry sector attendees, the interpretation of the legislation. Applicants should ensure, if they have not already done so that they have the latest CD with all relevant guidance contained on it. They should also ensure local discussions are pursued to determine the installation boundary and that the EOPRA system used by the Agency for charging for the application (and subsequent annual fees) is accurately completed and agreed with the Agency in advance of submission of the application.

Gus represented Northern Foods, a company that submitted a number of applications for sites around the country in the last food and drink tranche in June to August of 2004. Gus identified some of the problems encountered and how initial panic at the apparent quantity of work to be undertaken soon turned to calm as the company developed a plan of action. The approach was to use the consultants Golder Associates to mentor staff within the Northern Foods group to allow them to collate their own applications. Some sites appointed consultants to undertake specific tasks, such as the baseline ground quality investigations, whilst others utilised consultants to undertake all work associated with their applications. This devolved approach worked well for the company and made the best use of the resources available to Northern Foods. One key point identified by Gus was to only supply what is actually needed in the application; this seems logical but it is very tempting to over elaborate. He also highlighted the necessity of having a multidisciplinary team contributing to the compilation of the application. Gus also reminded the audience that the Agency provides 15 hours of free advice and suggested that they make full use of it.