

[1] "I started work with Ivan Watkins about August 1960 in the Engineering and Production Workshop when the factory was in Buller St New Plymouth. Ivan Watkins moved to the present site at Paratutu on the 24th November 1960.

It was a lovely area looking out to sea. Most mornings before work I'd go through Paratutu reserve, down to the beach and run along about a quarter of a mile or so. The beach and plant growth etc was so clear and untouched that it was the perfect start for the day's work. On the South West side of Paratutu rock was about 3 or 4 acres of grassed area. In the evenings that grassed area would be white with seagulls.

Clouds of foam 2 or 3 metres in size, and about 20 feet up in the air would head out to sea from the factory of Ivan Watkins. Everything looked so serene and peaceful. What a great place to work. I considered myself very lucky at that time, to be working in such a great environment. Then I noticed that the nice clean sandy beach was becoming littered with dead fish and birds and sometimes other animals like rabbits etc.

There was an overflow of liquid from the factory that went through the reserve into the sea, gouging out a trench at one place, about 10 feet deep and 15 or more feet across.

A great place for children to play, climbing up and around the banks of the stream.

I also saw the grassed area on the south west side of Paritutu rock had very few, if any, seagulls there of an evening. I remember talking to people about this. There wasn't much interest. It was to much bother to climb down to the beach to see for themselves.

I then talked to a member of the New Plymouth City Council about the death and destruction of the wildlife around the Paritutu area. Again no interest was evident."

[2] "In either Dec 1969 or Jan 1970 my 7th form class from Spitzwood College had a farewell barbeque on the Beach below the Ivon Watkins-Dow plant in New Plymouth.

It was very dark and after the barbeque a small group of us decided to walk up to the car park through the sand hills as this was the quickest route. As we walked up *I was further to the right than the others. My legs sank up to the knee in what I could only describe as quick sand. It was a weird sensation. I can still recall it quite vividly. At the top we came across a piece of barbed wire lying on top of the sand with a notice saying keep out. We had seen no notice at the bottom. It was the start of thirty years of bad health."

[2*] Interviewed by the TRC in 2001.

[3] "As I grew older I regularly went swimming and sunbathing during the summer months at the same beach with my friends, we often witnessed the stream coming down the hill from the IWD plant to be foaming and discoloured. We often saw animals, mainly cows, dead in the stream."

[4] "Back Beach was a lovely natural area of sandhills and there was a rough track down to the seashore. I went there often with my dog.

I noticed a strange pungent odour in the sea air from time to time, which disturbed my senses, and then *I discovered an effluent outlet - a 10 inch pipe from which an enormous quantity of coloured fluid was being poured out and fell onto the beach below. The smell from it was intolerable.

*I was very suspicious about this outflow and so after awhile I stopped going to back beach. However, I noted at the time that many people swam in the sea down below and adjacent to this outflow. The air was full of the pungent odour most of the time."

[4*] Interviewed by the TRC in 2001.

[5] "I lived in New Plymouth (63 Whitely Street) in the 60's and 70's."

"As a recreational diver, the fish life, Paua, etc was prolific at the base of Paritutu. I recall, that at one stage IWD was pouring vast quantities of evil smelling plant effluent over the sand hill directly onto the back beach at the base of Paritutu. I recall also that the channel cut into the sand hill by the volume of water/effluent waste was massive. Later a pipe (which can still be seen under a walkway) was used to discharge the stuff. Massive white foam drifts caused by this discharge which smelt strongly of chemicals would blow on the prevailing westerly winds over New Plymouth. I recall seeing this white foam floating like snow onto my father's house at Whitely street. All the lichens on the tiled roof vanished so clearly strong chemicals were involved. All sea life at the base of Paritutu vanished also. I recall diving there later and seeing nothing but bare rocks and no sea life. What was this effluent and did it contain dioxin? Where were the local authorities when all this was happening? Why doesn't someone test the sand under the pipe at the back beach sandhill for dioxin levels?"

[6] "I lived about 400 metres away from the age of 6 till about 15 I am now 44, my dad also worked there for a couple of years during that time and as kids we used to go to back beach and explore the rock pools very close to the out fall stream which always had that chemical smell to it. " (*age 44 in 2006, so resident 1968 to 1975)

[7] "As a laboratory technician student at the Taranaki Polytechnic in 1973 I was one of a group who conducted water pollution tests on several waterways in and around New Plymouth. Our last test sample was taken just offshore near the base of Paritutu where the IWD chemical plant had a discharge pipe. I cannot remember how far out to sea the pipe went.

The smell of the ocean was very strongly chemical and we observed a lack of sea life in the area. we waded out some distance to take our samples, rinsing equipment in the ocean between samplings. We had no pipette fillers so our mouths were in contact with the water and its contaminants.

A few weeks after this event I became quite ill. My symptoms included a skin rash on my torso, inflammation of my throat to the point where I was almost unable to swallow and severe swelling of my finger joints making it almost impossible to pick up items or hold them. I was told it could be rheumatic fever..."

EX IVAN WATKINS / IVAN WATKINS-DOW WORKERS INFORMATION.

[8] An ex IW/IWD 2,4,5-T synthesis worker (1966-1969) states that the chemicals from a mixing vessel or "kettle" were piped to the centrifuge

(approximately 2 m diameter x 0.5 m depth) in IWD Building 03.

Approximately one 44 gallon drum of "brown powder" was retrieved per centrifuging, after the liquid was centrifuged out to waste.

The rate of production was one 44 gallon drum (green drum) of powder per hour.

The liquid waste stream component significantly exceeded the amount of powder retrieved.

The powder TCDD contaminated Sodium trichlorophenoxy/acetate was collected from "canvas flaps" and shoveled into a drum using a small handheld "fire shovel".

Time frame for the centrifuging/filtering and shoveling operation was approximately one hour.

The foreman told his co-worker some product did escape through the canvas flaps of the centrifuge, that is, into the liquid waste stream and the foreman stated he could work out the amount lost.

The 1966-1969 centrifuge worker has bad health and stated his two co-workers were now dead.

The 1966 to 1969 ex IWD centrifuge worker states his deceased step father worked at the Drum processing plant, which was also in operation at that time (1966-1969).

the liquid waste stream.

[10] "I worked at Ivon Watkins and Dow in the late 60's and early 1970's."

"On the 2nd floor we had another kettle (glass lined tank) it hung down so the top of the kettle was at floor level. We had to suck the water off the top of the product using a prob which had a large glass type bowl on the top, you would manually lower the prob down slowly sucking the water of the top of the product, when you saw the butanol you would stop. (all water has gone). It was very smelly, so the chemists and engineers decided to add vent tube's (they were black) from the top of the kettle (glass lined tank) to take the fumes away. This was done so they could reuse the butanol calling it secondary butanol.

After doing this procedure at night one time something must have gone wrong. I came to in hospital (2) two days later in the intensive care unit."

"When we would start shift we would ask the shift before us is everything ok (meaning can we start making the products 245T and 24D yes would be the answer.

All the valves on the lines and the kettles (glass lined tanks) had manually operated valves (you opened and closed by hand).

After getting yourself ready gumboots, overalls and hard hat, if it was a hot day or night you rolled your sleeves up.

You started adding the different products to make 245T to the kettle (glass lined tank) after an hour or so you would have to take a P.H reading off a dip stick, all of a sudden you would say ----- there was no product on the dip stick, this meant there was no product in the kettle (glass lined tank) you would then run down the stairs to see what was wrong, all of a sudden you would hear that word again - - - - - yes the "valves" on the bottom of the tank (glass lined tank) are wide open, meaning the 245T product has gone down the town sewer lines and stormwater pipes. When this happened which was quite often the product would end up semi hard in the sewer lines and manholes.

What we would have to do is to go down into the manholes and dig the product into buckets, the workers up top would pull the buckets up by rope and empty the product into open top drums..."

"Also the plant (Ivon Watkins and Dow) was very close to the 'sea' if we had a spillage on the floor etc we would hose it down, the product would go down the storm water drains and out to sea. Sometimes we would run down to the fence line near the sea you could see this huge murky brown stain in the water."

[11] "Re fork lifts :-

Piercing of chemical filled drums were of a frequent nature, which the the chemical spillage contents were openly flushed down the immediate sewer drains in clean up mode, so dispersing of any evidence."

"Centrifuge.

This was where the liquid fluid from the vessels / kettles was pumped to, then after a spinning drying period, the residue moist free warm 245T component sediment was then physically dug out by hand trowel (similar to a plasterers trowel) then placed in a drum or similar receptacle for storage..."

"I am continually thinking of the past and further reminding myself of the unsafe working procedures that were blatantly used for dispensing of waste by products from the centrifuges, etc, in the making of 245T at IWD New Plymouth factory whilst I was employed in the manufacturing of 245T."

"I can assure any court of Law to my knowledge of the time factor area that I was employed with IWD in the manufacturing of 245T that any waste by-product/effluent discharge was released into the New Plymouth city sewerage system, outlet destination I believe via Belt road Sea sewerage dispersal outlet.

I do believe the New Plymouth City Council had a massive repair job on this sewerage link from IWD's Paratutu plant to Belt road sea sewerage out-let."