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Dow offers cash for clean-up

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Chemical manufacturer Dow Agrosciences wants to pay \$50,000 towards the clean-up and further tests for dioxin at Marfell Park.

Agrichemicals used by the former Ivon Watkins-Dow were uncovered by stormwater workers at the park in May, causing significant concern for the Marfell community.

Dow company operations leader Andrew Syme said yesterday it had made an offer to New Plymouth District Council towards the cost of making sure Marfell Park was a safe recreational area for New Plymouth. "The company understand the community concern over the discovery of the remnants of drums and residue," Mr Syme said.

He pointed out the drums were buried two metres below surface in what used to be a municipal landfill. "It has been our long-standing practice not

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to dispose of drums of chemicals in public waste facilities and it has not been determined how this material came to be at Marfell Park," he said.

"Nevertheless, we recognise that initial testing undertaken by the Taranaki Regional Council shows that some of the samples removed include raw materials once used at the former Ivon Watkins-Dow plant more than 20 years ago."

He said the offer had come out of discussions with NPDC on how Dow could support it financially.

Council general manager of community assets Anthony Wilson said the offer was good news.

"Otherwise it would be ratepayers' money," he said.

The council had already spent \$30,000 on the clean-up, removing drums and soil from the park. It was also expected to meet some of the TRC's sampling costs.

[Taranaki Daily News](#)



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