

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0039972

Permit being assessed: YP3339EC.

For: Dragon Recycling Solutions Limited, held by Dragon Recycling Solutions Ltd
At: Unit 4 Heads of the Valley Industrial , Estate, Rhymney , Tredegar, NP22 5RL.

Type of assessment carried out: Site Inspection, Reason: Incident Response (Incident number 2202009).

On 30/05/2022 between 10:45 and 13:15.

Parts of permit assessed: Site and watercourse inspection after fire

NRW Lead Officer: Rebecca Green, accompanied by Luke Burton, Wayne Grimstead.

Report sent to: Mick Young, Director on 31/05/2022.

1. Summary of our findings (full details in section 4)

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
B2 - Infrastructure - Closure and decommissioning	Assessed (A)	
B3 - Infrastructure - Site drainage engineering (clean and foul)	Assessed (A)	
B1 - Infrastructure - Engineering for prevention and control of emissions	Assessed (A)	
C2 - General Management - Management system and operating procedures	Assessed (A)	
E2 - Emissions - Land and groundwater	Assessed (A)	
E3 - Emissions - Surface water	Assessed (A)	

Result types are explained in more detail in the 'Important Information' section below.

Total number of non-compliances recorded	Total non-compliance score
0	0

How we use the non-compliance score to calculate your annual fee is explained in the 'Important Information' section below.

2. What action is required?

No action required.

3. What will happen next?

Any non-compliance we have identified and recorded on this form is an offence. It can result in criminal prosecution and/or suspension or revocation of your permit.

At this time, we do not intend to take any further action.

This statement does not stop us from taking additional enforcement action if further relevant information comes to light or offences continue.

4. Details of our assessment

On 19th March 2022 Dragon suffered a catastrophic fire which destroyed the site. Officers from Natural Resources Wales (NRW) attended. Drains were blocked and firewater banded, but some firewater escaped to surface water drains. Samples taken from some surface waters showed significant contamination with several chemical residues from burnt plastic, phenols and cresols. There were no reports of dead fish or other visible contamination of the watercourses.

The purpose of this visit was to assess the site and the condition of surrounding surface water. NRW personnel present were Rebecca Green (RVG, Site Officer, Senior Officer, Industry Regulation South East), Wayne Grimstead (WG, Team Leader, IR SE) and Luke Burton (LB, Senior Officer, IR SE) who met MY (Director, Dragon RS), TM (Compliance Manager, Dragon RS) and several personnel from Walters who are handling the site demolition and disposal of the debris. No buildings are left standing on site, all that remains is the concrete pad which is being broken up and removed by Neal's Soils. Any asbestos has been disposed of at Docksway landfill and other hazardous materials were removed by Egan Waste. Waste transfer documentation for the concrete was seen; one note was incomplete, the other was completed fully. The incomplete note was brought to the driver's attention and corrected.

The site of the mercury reclaim unit (the installation) was seen; it is down the the hardcore layer which was under the concrete. No evidence of contamination was seen. Dragon will be surrendering the permit for the installation and will need to submit a Site Condition Report (SCR) as part of that process. Dragon were advised to take samples of the ground under and near where the unit was and to send them for analysis. The results should be included in the SCR. This is only necessary because the surrender is due to the fire.

Drainage channels and surface water drains in and around the site were inspected and RVG agreed that the booms, clay drain mats and pillows could be removed. Walters were reminded that they should be disposed of as hazardous waste and a copy of the Consignment Notes sent to RVG. Dragon's plans for a specialised battery recycling unit at their other site were discussed, but this will require a separate visit to discuss the process in detail. RVG will have preliminary discussions with Permitting before the meeting to determine whether the proposed activity falls within the scope of any regulations.

RG, LB and WG left the site to assess the nearby surface waters and sample them if deemed necessary. Visual inspection did not show any evidence of contamination that could have been due to the fire. However, a pool in a small tributary did have a small amount of an unusual foam on the surface and also had an unusual odour. Samples were taken and sent for analysis. It is thought unlikely that Dragon was the source, but this cannot be confirmed until the analysis results have been received.

It is very unfortunate that such a successful and innovative business has been destroyed by arson.
END.

If you have any queries about this report, or to discuss completion of any actions, please contact the NRW Officer named above.

Important information

Legal status of this report

Your permit is issued to you under the Environmental Permitting Regulations. You have a responsibility to comply with the conditions of your permit and prevent pollution/harm of the environment. You must also ensure that you comply with any other relevant legislation that may apply to your site's operations.

This report explains the findings of our assessment and any action you are required to take. We categorise non-compliance using our guidance for assessing non-compliance at regulated sites.

When we find potential non-compliance/s we will normally give you advice on how to maintain compliance.

To correct non-compliance, we may:

- require you to take specific actions
- issue a notice
- review the conditions of your permit.

Any advice and guidance we give will be without prejudice to any other enforcement response that we consider may be required.

Assessment results and non-compliance categories (used in section 1):

Assessment result	Description
Assessed (A)	Assessed or assessed in part, no evidence of non-compliance found
Action only (X)	Action only relating to the activity assessment
Ongoing (O)	Ongoing non-compliance, not scored

Non-compliance category	Description	Score
C1 Major	Potential to have a major, serious, persistent and/or extensive impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property	60
C2 Significant	Potential to have a significant impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property	31
C3 Minor	Potential to have a minor or minimal impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property	4
C4 No environmental impact	Non-compliance at a regulated site that cannot foreseeably have any impact on the environment, people and/or property	0.1

How we use assessment scores

The number and severity of non-compliances recorded in a year will affect your annual subsistence fee the following year. A non-compliance factor is added to your site's Operator

Performance Risk Appraisal (OPRA) score when we calculate your fee to reflect the additional resource we use to assess permit compliance.

What are suspended scores?

In line with our guidance, we may suspend scores for up to six months to allow time for remedial action to be taken. Suspended scores will be re-instated if the action is not completed.

Full list of Industry and Waste action criteria (used in section 1 and 2):

A: Permitted activities

- A1 Specified by permit

B: Infrastructure

- B1 Infrastructure – Engineering for prevention and control of emissions
- B2 Infrastructure – Closure and decommissioning
- B3 Infrastructure – Site drainage engineering (clean and foul)
- B4 Infrastructure – Containment of stored materials
- B5 Infrastructure – Plant and equipment

C: General management

- C1 General management – Staff competency/training
- C2 General management – Management system and operating procedures
- C3 General management – Materials acceptance
- C4 General management – Storage, handling, labelling and segregation

D: Incident management

- D1 Incident management – Site security
- D2 Incident management – Accidents, emergency and incident planning

E: Emissions

- E1 Emissions – Air
- E2 Emissions – Land and groundwater
- E3 Emissions – Surface water
- E4 Emissions – Sewer
- E5 Emissions – Waste

F: Amenity

- F1 Amenity – Odour
- F2 Amenity – Noise
- F3 Amenity – Dust/fibres/particulates and litter
- F4 Amenity – Pests/birds and scavengers
- F5 Amenity – Deposits on road

G: Monitoring and records, maintenance and reporting

- G1 Monitoring and records, maintenance and reporting – Monitoring of emissions and environment
- G2 Monitoring and records, maintenance and reporting – Records of activity, site diary/journal/events
- G3 Monitoring and records, maintenance and reporting – Maintenance records
- G4 Monitoring and records, maintenance and reporting – Reporting and notification to Natural Resources Wales

H: Resources efficiency

- H1 Resource efficiency – Efficient use of raw materials
- H2 Resource efficiency – Energy efficiency

Enforcement response

Any permit condition non-compliance is an offence and we may take legal action against you. Action we take can include prosecution, serving a notice on you and/or suspension or revocation of your permit. See our Enforcement and Sanctions Guidance for further information.

Data protection notice

You should make sure that anyone named in this report knows that the information it contains will be processed by Natural Resources Wales to fulfil its regulatory and monitoring functions and to maintain the relevant public register(s).

We may also use and/or disclose the report in connection with:

- offering or providing you with our literature or services relating to environmental matters
- consulting with the public, public bodies and other organisations (e.g. Health and Safety Executive, local authorities) on environmental issues
- carrying out statistical analysis, research and development on environmental issues
- providing public register information to enquirers
- investigating possible breaches of environmental law
- assessing customer service satisfaction and improving our service
- Freedom of Information Act or Environmental Information Regulations requests.

We may also pass it on to our agents or representatives to do these things on our behalf.

Disclosure of information – this report will be available to view on-line

If you think this report contains commercially confidential information that should not be placed on our public register, you must contact your local Natural Resources Wales office within **fifteen working days** of receiving this report, using the contact details in the accompanying email or letter. You must give a full explanation of why it should not be added to our public register, including specifying which information is commercially confidential. We will assess your request and respond to you within 20 working days to let you know if we agree to your request.

What do I do if I disagree with the report or have a complaint?

If you disagree with this compliance assessment report, you should contact the lead officer without delay to discuss your concerns.

If you are unable to resolve the issue with the lead officer or their line manager you should contact our Customer Contact team on 0300 065 3000 (Monday to Friday 08:00 – 18:00), or email enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk for details of how to raise your dispute further through our Complaints and Commendations procedure.

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you can contact the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales by phone on 0300 7900203 or by email at ask@ombudsman.wales

Welsh Language Standards

We are committed to establishing Natural Resources Wales as a naturally bilingual organisation. We will provide compliance reports in your preferred language.