

Compliance Assessment Report

Report ID:
CAR_NRW0031490

This form will report compliance with your permit as determined by an NRW officer

Site	Waen AD Plant EPR/DP3735NP	Permit Ref	DP3735NP		
Operator/Permit holder	Biogen Waen Ltd				
Regime	Installations				
Date of assessment	30/03/2017	Time in	10:00	Out	14:00
Assessment type	Site Inspection				
Parts of the permit assessed	Various				
Lead officer's name	Ross, Stuart				
Accompanied by	Roberts, Anthony,McClymont, James				
Recipient's name/position	David Eynon/ Plant Manager	Date issued	11/04/2017		

Section 1 – Compliance Assessment Summary

This is based on the requirements of the permit under the Environmental Permitting Regulations or the licence under the Water Resources Act 1991 as amended by the Water Act 2003. A detailed explanation is captured in "Compliance Assessment Report Detail" (Section 2) and any actions you may need to take are given in the "Action(s)" (section 4). This summary details where we believe any non-compliance with the permit has occurred, the relevant condition and how the non-compliance has been categorised using our Compliance Classification Scheme (CCS). CCS Scores can be consolidated or suspended where appropriate, to reflect the impact of some non-compliances more accurately. For more details of our CCS scheme, contact your local office.

Permit conditions and compliance summary	CCS Category	Condition(s) breached
A1 - Specified by permit	A	
B3 - Infrastructure - Site drainage engineering (clean and foul)	A	
B4 - Infrastructure - Containment of stored materials	A	
C2 - General Management - Management system and operating procedures	A	
G1 - Monitoring and Records, Maintenance and Reporting - Monitoring of emissions and environment	A	
G3 - Monitoring and Records, Maintenance and Reporting - Maintenance records	A	

KEY: See Section 5 for breach categories, suspended scores will be indicated as such.

A = Assessed or assessed in part (no evidence of non-compliance), **X** = Action only,

O = Ongoing non-compliance, not scored.

Number of breaches recorded	0	Total compliance score (see section 5 for scoring scheme)	0
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If the Number of breaches recorded is greater than zero, please see Section 3 for our proposed enforcement response

Section 2 – Compliance Assessment Report Detail

This section contains a report of our findings and will usually include information on:

- The part(s) of the permit that were assessed (eg. Maintenance, training, combustion plant, etc)
- Where the type of assessment was 'Data Review' details of the report/results triggering the assessment
- Any non-compliances identified
- Any non-compliances with directly applicable legislation
- Details of any multiple non-compliances
- Information on the compliance score accrued inc.
- Details of advice given
- Any other areas of concern
- Any actions requested
- Any examples of good practice
- A reference to photos taken

Since the last inspection the plant manager has transferred to Waen AD (from Gwyriad AD) during the summer of 2016.

A site inspection of the operational areas (waste reception hall, tank farm and yard areas) identified no issues of concern. Housekeeping was to a very high standard, materials were stored appropriately, and plant and equipment appears to be maintained to a high standard.

No significant odours were noticed on site (external areas). There was a localised odour from the biogas holder that has also been observed at Biogen Gwyriad and subject to previous correspondence. This has generally lead us to the opinion that appropriate measures are in place. However, I would welcome an update from Biogen as to the cause of the odour at Waen and whether or not further techniques can be applied to minimise emissions.

In terms of odour control. there continue to be regular and adequate maintenance checks on various aspects of the plant. This includes the basic operation of the carbon filters (flow, performance), building integrity and a perimeter odour assessments. Preventative maintenance is now scheduled in using 'Activ'.

Carbon filter media testing is completed approximately every six months but varies depending on the predicted rate at which the media depletes. The carbon filter serving the reception hall was recharged December 2016 following some investigative work (as agreed with NRW) and is now fully operational.

The ammonia concentration of surface water within the attenuation tank is tested before discharge (if a discharge is required) and only released if it meets the permit limits - records inspected. Typically harvested rainwater is used on site as part of the digestion process and not discharged to surface waters. Biogen are also testing for ammonia in drainage arising from the now demolished abattoir site. It was reported that ammonia is still being detected in this drainage system.

Flare

During the inspection NRW's Landfill gas technical specialist inspected the flare and had a number of concerns and comments that are summarised below;

- The thermal lining of the flare needs to be inspected as there is evidence of loose material at the bottom of the flare as viewed through the louvers. The flare may need to be re-lined if wear is found to be significant and affecting combustion.

- The top of the flare is showing sooty deposits suggesting that a yellow flame is 'licking' the top of the flare (reportedly witnessed by the site manager) which strongly indicates incomplete combustion of biogas and poor emissions. This can be caused by operating below the lowest turndown ratio, poor air supply and lack of delivery pressure to the burners. The biogas delivery pressure to the flare was reported to be only +22 mbar and delivers only the pressure in the gas holder. We believe this pressure is likely to be insufficient and the flare may require the addition of a booster rated to the maximum biogas production .

ACTION - please provide NRW with confirmation as to the flare delivery pressure and its operating pressure requirements. Additionally investigate and inform NRW as why the flare appears not to be achieving the complete combustion of biogas

- The flare knockout pot is situated below ground (presumably to achieve the required gradient) and has to be manually de-watered with a bucket from the bottom of the chamber below ground. If condensate partially blocks the pipe-work leading to the flare it will cause a flow restriction and lead to fluctuation in combustion temperature and combustion efficiency.

It is recommended that a knock out pot with mesh de-watering system and a level indicator and/or float alarm is installed.

ACTION - Biogen shall review the effectiveness of the existing biogas condensate removal system (pre-flare) and provide NRW with a report of its findings.

- It is recommended that the flash arrestor should have two small pressure meters either side to measure the differential pressure and aid the detection of a blockage within the mesh. It was reported by the site manager that there have been previous issues with blockages. .

ACTION - due to the safety critical nature of the flash arrestor, please review the control measures in place to identify a blockage and inform NRW of your findings and proposed improvements as required.

Please complete the actions detailed above by 12th May 2017.

EPR Compliance Assessment Report

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Operator/Permit holder	Biogen Waen Ltd	Date	30/03/2017

Section 3 – Enforcement Response

You must take immediate action to rectify any non-compliance and prevent repetition. Non-compliance with your permit conditions constitutes an offence and can result in criminal prosecutions and/or suspension or revocation of a permit. Please read the detailed assessment in Section 2 and the steps you need to take in Section 4 below.

Section 4 – Action(s)

This section summarises the actions identified during the assessment along with the timescales for when they will need to be completed.

Criteria Ref.	CCS Category	Action required/advised	Due Date
See Section 1 above			

Section 5 – Compliance notes for the Operator

To ensure you correct actual or potential non-compliance we may

- Advise on corrective actions verbally or in writing
- Require you to take specific actions verbally or in writing
- Issue a notice
- Require you to review your procedures or management system
- Change some of the conditions of your permit
- Decide to undertake a full review of your permit

Any breach of a permit condition is an offence and we may take legal action against you

- We will normally provide advice and guidance to assist you to come back into compliance either after an offence is committed or where we consider that an offence is likely to be committed. This is without prejudice to any other enforcement response that we consider may be required.
- Enforcement action can include the issue of a formal caution, prosecution, the service of a notice and/or suspension or revocation of the permit.

See our Enforcement and Civil Sanctions guidance for further information

This report does not relieve the site operator of the responsibility to

- Ensure you comply with the conditions of the permit at all times and prevent pollution of the environment
- Ensure you comply with other legislative provisions which may apply

Non-compliance scores and categories

CCS category	Description	Score
C1	A non-compliance that could have a major environmental effect	60
C2	A non-compliance which could have a significant environmental effect	31
C3	A non-compliance which could have a minor environmental effect	4
C4	A non-compliance which has no potential environmental effect	0.1

Operational Risk Appraisal (Opra) - Compliance assessment findings may affect your Opra score and/or your charges. This score influences the resource we use to assess permit compliance.

Section 6 – General information

Data protection notice

The information on this form will be processed by the Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to fulfil its regulatory and monitoring functions and to maintain the relevant public register(s). The NRW may also use and/or disclose it in connection with:

- Offering/providing you with its literature/services relating to environmental matters
- Consulting with the public, public bodies and other organisations (eg. 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 its service
- Freedom of Information Act/Environmental Regulations request

The NRW may pass it on to its agents/representatives to do these things on its behalf. You should ensure that any persons named on this form are informed of the contents of this data protection notice.

Disclosure of information

The NRW will provide a copy of this report to the public register(s). However, if you consider that any information contained in this report should not be released to the public register(s) on the grounds of commercial confidentiality, you must write to your local area office within fifteen working days of receipt of this form indicating which information it concerns and why it should not be released, giving your reasons in full.

Customer charter

What can I do if I disagree with this compliance assessment report?

If you are unable to resolve the issue with your site officer, you should firstly discuss the matter with officer's line managers using the informal appeals procedure. If you wish to raise your dispute further through our official Complaints and Commendations procedure, phone our general enquiry number 0300 065 3000 (Mon to Fri 08.00 – 18.00) and ask for the Customer Contact team or send an email to enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk. If you are still dissatisfied you can make a complaint to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales. For advice on how to complain to the Ombudsman phone their helpline on 0845 607 0987.

Welsh Language

If you would like this form in Welsh please contact your Regulatory Officer.