

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0040932

Permit being assessed: WP3836ZF.

For: Wrexham Clinical Waste Treatment Facility (Incinerator), held by Tradebe Healthcare National Limited

At: Wrexham Clinical Waste Treatment Facility (Incinerator) Marlborough Road , Wrexham Industrial Estate, WREXHAM, Clwyd, LL13 9RJ.

Type of assessment carried out: Report/Data Review, Reason: Routine.

On 30/12/2022.

Parts of permit assessed: monitoring returns

NRW Lead Officer: Rebecca Harwood.

Report sent to: Alan Rhodes / Peter Stunden, SHEQ Lead / Site Manager on 06/03/2023.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
E1 - Emissions - Air	C3 Minor	2.2.1.3
E1 - Emissions - Air	C3 Minor	2.2.1.3
E1 - Emissions - Air	C3 Minor	2.2.1.3
E1 - Emissions - Air	C3 Minor	2.2.1.3
G1 - Monitoring and Records, Maintenance and Reporting - Monitoring of emissions and environment	Assessed (A)	
G4 - Monitoring and Records, Maintenance and Reporting - Reporting and notification to Natural Resources Wales	Action only (X)	
H1 - Resource Efficiency - Efficient use of raw materials	Assessed (A)	
H2 - Resource Efficiency - Energy efficiency	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
4	16

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?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
E1	see text below	31/03/2023
E1	see text below	31/03/2023
E1	see text below	31/03/2023
E1	see text below	31/03/2023

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
G4	see text below	31/03/2023

Action criteria codes are listed in the 'Important information' section below.

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.

You are non-compliant with your permit.

We are currently considering taking enforcement action against you for the non-compliance recorded above. We will contact you in due course.

4. Details of our assessment

This compliance assessment report follows the submission of 2022 monitoring and performance data and Q4 (October – December 2022) CEMS data.

A permit variation was issued on 22 December 2022 following the BRef review. For the purpose of this report the Conditions referred to relate to the previous permit variation.

1. Q4 CEMS monitoring

Monitoring data was received monthly from the Operator. Condition 2.2.1.3 requires that emissions to air will not exceed levels set out in Table 2.2.2. Having reviewed the data submitted, the following ELV breaches have been identified for Q2.

Sulphur dioxide - exceedances of the ½ hour average ELV of 200mg/m³ have been identified. **These have been scored a category 3 breach of Condition 2.2.1.3.** There were no breaches of the daily average ELV of 50mg/m³.

VOC - exceedances of the ½ hour average ELV of 20mg/m³ have been identified. **These have been scored a category 3 breach of Condition 2.2.1.3.** There were no breaches of the daily average ELV of 10mg/m³.

Hydrogen Chloride - exceedances of the ½ hour average ELV of 60mg/m³ have been identified. **These have been scored a category 3 breach of Condition 2.2.1.3.**

Exceedances of the daily average ELV of 10mg/m³ have also been identified. **These have been scored a category 3 breach of Condition 2.2.1.3.**

Exceedances across the quarter have been consolidated per parameter.

There were no breaches of Particulate matter, NOX or CO above the ELVs.

A response to previous CAR actions investigating prior exceedances was received on 12 January 2023. This states that works have been undertaken on the bag house, start up burner and lime abatement system. Alongside the introduction of an automated waste inhibit function these works have helped reduce the number of exceedances being

experienced at Wrexham. The email also states that: *The Tradebe engineering division along with external specialists have spent some time recently reviewing the lime and carbon dosing system and its performance.*

Action 1: Forward information relating to any improvements that are to be / have been made to the lime and carbon dosing to NRW by 31 March 2023. Continue to undertake full investigations and root cause analysis of any emissions exceedance.

2. AST

The AST was undertaken during May, all parameters passed except HCl and Oxygen. A further AST was undertaken during June where the Oxygen failed. Subsequently a QAL2 was undertaken and the calibration function for Oxygen was amended during August 2022.

Action 2: Ensure AST and/or QAL2 reports are submitted to NRW in a timely manner.

3. Biannual Air Emissions Monitoring

Condition 2.2.1.3 required that emissions to air will not exceed levels set out in Table 2.2.2. Bi-annual monitoring from emission point A1 was undertaken in October 2022. Results were received on 22 November 2022 and were below the ELVs specified in the permit.

4. Bottom Ash & APC residues

Bottom Ash TOC sampling was undertaken in accordance with Conditions 2.2.8.1 and 2.6.6. Ash composition for all quarters remained below the 3% TOC limit.

Bottom Ash and APC residues sampling was undertaken in accordance with Conditions 2.10.4.

5. Emergency Relief Vent (ERV)

NRW were notified 23 times during the course of 2022 regarding the ERV opening.

Please note that the ERV opening is included as part of abnormal operations. The abnormal operations log submitted does not identify any ERV openings within it. Any hours where the ERV is open should be logged on the abnormal operation log and count towards the 60 hours allowed within the permit (Condition 2.1.12).

Action 3: Review and update the Abnormal Operations Log for 2022 by 31 March 2023.

The number of occasions when the ERV opened is significantly more than is expected. A review of historic ERV events is included as part of IC11 in the recently issued permit

variation.

6. Annual performance reporting

Condition 4.1.3 of the permit requires a report on the performance of the permitted activities over the previous year to be submitted. This report was received on the 8 February 2023.

Annual water, energy, waste and performance parameter data for the Incinerator has been reviewed:

WUI - Water usage has decreased compared with 2021.

E1 – Energy use overall has decreased, notably the use of natural gas. Helix generation has also decreased.

RI – APC residue tonnages remain similar to previous years and Bottom Ash tonnages continue to increase.

P1 – Overall waste tonnages have dropped slightly.

7. Reporting

Condition 4.1.6 required the Operator to provide a summary report of the previous years progress against the EMS targets set. This has not been received.

Action 4: Submit Annual Improvement Targets Report by 31 March 2023.

8. Waste returns

Waste returns were submitted for all quarters.

Nb: As previously stated a permit variation was issued on 22 December 2022 following the BRef review. Please ensure that all monitoring and reporting requirements reflect those detailed in the latest consolidated permit.

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.