

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0041623

Permit being assessed: BP0231901

For: PENNARD SPS OFF PENNARD DR SWANSEA, held by DWR CYMRU
CYFYNGEDIG

At: PENNARD SEWAGE PUMPING STATION, OFF PENNARD DRIVE, PENNARD,
SWANSEA, .

Type of assessment carried out: Audit, Reason: Incident Response (Incident number:
2300405).

On 10/03/2023.

Parts of permit assessed: Nature

NRW Lead Officer: Sarah Bennett.

Report sent to: CARS Mailbox, CARS Mailbox, on 06/04/2023.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
WQ-B1 - Operations - Permitted activities	C3 Minor	Nature 1. The Discharge shall consist solely of sewage in an Emergency.
WQ-B1 - Operations - Permitted activities	Action only (X)	
WQ-B1 - Operations - Permitted activities	C3 Minor	Nature 2. The Discharge shall only occur when: (a) the sewage pumping station is inoperative as a result of one or more of the following: (i) electrical power failure not due to the act or default of the Consent Holder, its agents, representatives, officers, employees or servants; (ii) mechanical breakdown of duty and standby pumps; (iii) rising main failure; (iv) blockage of the downstream sewer not due to the act or default of the Consent Holder, its agents,

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
		representatives, officers, employees or servants:
WQ-B2 - Operations - The site	Action only (X)	

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

2. What action is required?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
WQ-B1	Please carry out monitoring at the SPS to establish the frequency and duration of any un-permitted discharges that are occurring. This should start as soon as possible and no later than the action due date. See details below for more information.	30/06/2023
WQ-B1	Please inform NRW of the steps you propose to take to prevent storm discharges occurring from Pennard SPS. See details below for more information.	28/07/2023
WQ-B1	Please ensure the pumping station is maintained to a standard which minimises the risk of non-compliant discharges.	28/04/2023
WQ-B2	Please undertake a survey to determine the pathway by which any overflow from the pumping station arrives at the bankside. The survey should also determine whether there are any other points at which sewage can be discharged to land along the pipe line and also if sewage is being discharged from any inspection covers within the Pennard SPS compound. See details below for more information.	26/05/2023

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.

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 the 15/01/23 you notified us of a pollution incident caused by a discharge from Pennard SPS. The discharge was caused by a combination of a pump blockage and hydraulic overload.

Discharge due to hydraulic overload

The permit in place at Pennard SPS only allows a discharge of sewage in an Emergency. It does not permit the discharge of storm sewage.

The discharge that occurred on the 15th January was not compliant with Condition 1 of the

permit which states that the discharge shall consist solely of sewage in an Emergency.

Action required: Please carry out monitoring at the SPS to establish the frequency and duration of any un-permitted discharges occurring, including any discharges from inspection chambers within the compound of the SPS. This should start as soon as possible and no later than the action due date of 30/06/2023.

DCWW should now take steps to prevent discharges occurring due to hydraulic overload so please inform us of how this will be achieved.

Action required: Please inform NRW of the steps you propose to take to prevent storm discharges occurring from Pennard SPS.

Discharge due to pump blockage

Whilst a permit to discharge in an Emergency is in place at Pennard SPS, the discharge that occurred on the 15/01/2023 was not covered by Condition 2 of the permit which states that the discharge shall only occur when:

(a) the sewage pumping station is inoperative as a result of one or more of the following:

(i) electrical power failure not due to the act or default of the Consent Holder, its agents, representatives, officers, employees or servants;

(ii) mechanical breakdown of duty and standby pumps;

(iii) rising main failure;

(iv) blockage of the downstream sewer not due to the act or default of the Consent Holder, its agents, representatives, officers, employees or servants.

Action required: Please ensure the pumping station is maintained to a standard which minimises the risk of non-compliant discharges.

Outfall Pipe(s)

There are 2 outfall pipes located on the river bank. At present there is some uncertainty as to which of the outfalls are connected to the SPS.

Please undertake a survey to determine the pathway by which any overflow from the pumping station arrives at the bankside. The survey should also determine whether there are any other points at which sewage can be discharged to land along the pipe line and also if sewage is being discharged from any inspection covers within the Pennard SPS compound.

Offence

These breaches are in contravention of Regulation 38 (2) of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 which states that it is an offence for a person to fail to comply with or to contravene an environmental permit condition.

Please take the action required in this report as formal Advice and Guidance intended to

bring the discharge back into compliance with the 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 to 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
C1 Major	Potential to have a major, serious, persistent and/or extensive impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property
C2 Significant	Potential to have a significant impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property
C3 Minor	Potential to have a minor or minimal impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property
C4 No environmental impact	Non-compliance at a regulated site that cannot foreseeably have any impact on the environment, people and/or property

If your assessment result in Section 1 is suspended, what does this mean?

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

Full list of water quality action criteria (used in section 1 and 2):**WQ A: Management**

- WQ-A1 General management

WQ B: Operations

- WQ-B1 Permitted activities
- WQ-B2 The site
- WQ-B3 Operating techniques
- WQ-B4 Improvement programme
- WQ-B5 Pre-operational conditions

WQ C: Emissions and monitoring

- WQ-C1 Emissions to water
- WQ-C2 Emissions to land
- WQ-C3 Emissions of substances not controlled by emission limits
- WQ-C4 Installation of monitoring boreholes

WQ D: Information

- WQ-D1 Records
- WQ-D2 Reporting
- WQ-D3 Notifications

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.