

## Compliance Assessment Report CAR\_NRW0041621

**Permit being assessed:** DP3934EW.

For: Point Of Ayr Gas Terminal , held by Eni UK Ltd

At: Point of Ayr Terminal Station Road , Talacre, HOLYWELL, Clwyd, CH8 9RD.

**Type of assessment carried out:** Site Inspection, Reason: Routine.

On 29/03/2023 between 09:30 and 12:45.

Parts of permit assessed: See report

**NRW Lead Officer:** Lara Cubley.

**Report sent to:** Andrew Elkin, Environmental Co-ordinator on 17/04/2023.

### 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	3.1.2

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

Total number of non-compliances recorded	Total non-compliance score
1	4

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 report - Linked to start-up/shutdown. No further action.	Already completed

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.**

**At this time, we are issuing you with a warning for the non-compliance recorded above. Warnings may influence future enforcement response for continued or further non-compliance.**

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

### 1) Introduction

NWR conducted an inspection of Point of Ayr (PoA) Gas Terminal of the 29th of March 2023 in order to:

- Conduct a site walkover inspection.
- Discuss timescales with ceasing gas processing/permit surrender
- Discuss the Site Closure Plan and Site Condition Report
- Discuss the recent Part A/B Thermal Oxidiser (TOx) SO<sub>2</sub> breach (23 Feb – 3 March 2023)

### 2) Site Walkover

A site walkover was conducted to include the waste/chemical storage area and along the side of train A/B process area. No issues were identified.

### 3) Future Plans

The operator gave an overview of the site plan with respect to timescales for ceasing gas refining. Cessation is still programmed for the end of June 2023. The operator plans to carry out hydrocarbon cleaning, chemical disposal, and equipment decontamination as part of the decommissioning plans. The next phase will involve the demolition of the two process trains once the carbon transport and storage system is completed and commissioned. This could delay the surrender, in terms of acquiring soil samples to assess land condition.

The Methanol storage tank, reportedly 100,000 litres will remain for continued gas field use.

### 4) Site Closure/Surrender

The operator is developing a surrender strategy which will look at the decommissioning phases and sampling strategy to satisfy the Industrial Emissions Directive permit surrender requirements. It was noted that the recent Site Protection & Monitoring Plan 4 yearly submission contradicted the Site Closure Plan with respect to soil and groundwater monitoring requirements.

### Advice & Guidance

The 5 yearly groundwater sampling will be due this year since the permit BREF review in 2018 incorporated these requirements. The location of the site is adjacent to RAMSAR, SSSI's and other nature reserves of national importance and sited on a sand aquifer, with the storage and use of large quantities of hazardous chemicals. It is therefore critical that the SCR includes sufficient intrusive soil and groundwater data to confirm the absence of pollution and/or enable effective remediation to be undertaken.

This groundwater sampling should be incorporated into the intrusive investigation work to demonstrate site condition at the time of surrender. It was agreed that the operator could submit sampling plans/strategies for intrusive sampling prior to making the application for surrender.

**5) Recent Part A/B Notification**

The operator has recently breached their permitted Emission Limit Value (ELV) for SO<sub>2</sub> of 190mg/m<sup>3</sup> at the Thermal Oxidiser at emission point A1 as a result of a planned shutdown between 23/02/2023 and 08/03/2023.

A Part A notification was submitted on 24/02/2023 and the Part B on 13/03/2023. The standby cooling water pump was off-site for overhaul by specialist contractors when the in operation pump deteriorated, leading to the start of the planned shutdown. This involved a breach for 21 consecutive hours, with a maximum hourly average concentration of 901mg/m<sup>3</sup> during the shutdown on the 23/02/2023. Emissions also breached on start up commencing 08/03/2023 with two half hourly averages with a maximum concentration of 401mg/m<sup>3</sup>. The plant was back into compliance on 08/03/23.

**These SO<sub>2</sub> breaches have been scored a category 3 (minor) non-compliance against permit condition 3.1.2 (E1 - Emissions to air).**

**6) Other**

NRW requested further data regarding Mercury concentrations in gas as there is some evidence that mercury levels can increase as a field gets towards the end of its life. On the 30/03/23 the operator provided results a laboratory Mercury analysis on 17/07/2017 of 0.087ug/m<sup>3</sup>.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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.