

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0041927

Permit being assessed: BU2357IP.

For: Mostyn Chemical Works, held by Mostyn Chemical Works

At: Warwick Chemicals Dock Road , Mostyn, HOLYWELL, Clwyd, CH8 9HE.

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

On 18/05/2023 between 10:00 and 13:00.

Parts of permit assessed: Various

NRW Lead Officer: Stuart Ross.

Report sent to: Neil Johnson, UK Health, Safety and Environment Manager on 07/06/2023.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
A1 - Specified by permit	Assessed (A)	
B1 - Infrastructure - Engineering for prevention and control of emissions	Assessed (A)	
D1 - Incident Management - Site security	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

This Compliance Assessment Report follows a planned site inspection 18/05/23. Present were Tony Beck (Plant Manager) and Neil Johnson (UK Health, Safety and Environment

Manager).

Acetic Anhydride Removal

During the inspection it was verified that both acetic anhydride tanks have been emptied, were clean and c. It was also noted that the bund wall has been core drilled to prevent the accumulation of rainwater in accordance with other decommissioned bunds.

Tank wash water was collected and containerised in 3 IBCs and disposed of offsite.

Site Drainage

During the inspection we reviewed the surface water quality sampling data supplied for the period January to April 2023 as completed by Delta Simons. It was noted that BOD and ammonia have been variable throughout the sampling period and remain above what would be expected for clean and uncontaminated water – for example the most recent sample collected in April contained 150mg/l of BOD and 0.65mg/l of ammonia, typically clean rain water would not have a BOD >5mg/l or contain ammonia.

N.B All discharges during this period have been compliant with permitted emission limit values.

As witnessed during the inspection, the balance tank contents have developed an anoxic / foul odour indicative of the decomposition of organic matter. It is understood that these tanks have previously experienced problems with fungal hyphae blooms and it was theorised that due to the lack of nutrient input since decommissioning and the infrequent discharges, there may have been a collapse in the biomass and stagnation that has led to the accumulation of decaying organic matter.

Due to Delta Simons collecting samples from the waste water tank recirculation lines and not the input to the tanks from the site drainage system, the elevated BOD and ammonia may not be a true reflection of the site's surface water drainage. This is only a theory and of course there maybe another explanation.

It is understood that the balance tanks cannot be fully emptied during discharge and a quantity of sludge/sediment remains in situ. As agreed, a demonstration must be made to NRW that this sludge has been removed from the tanks as part of the site decommissioning and surrender process.

It was also noted that the central collection sump has an oily layer on the surface and similarly a demonstration must be made to NRW that the sump has been cleaned of any potential contamination.

It was agreed in principle that if the surface water is proven to be clean and uncontaminated then the discharge no longer needs to go into the balance tanks and can be pumped directly from the central collection sump to surface water. This would require agreement with NRW, in this scenario the tanks could be taken out of service.

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.