

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0041868

Permit being assessed: BA2001101

For: Crynant Sewage Treatment Works, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

At: Track Off Neath Road (A4109), Crynant, Neath, SA10 8SG.

Type of assessment carried out: Site Inspection, Reason: Incident Response (Incident number: 2303820).

On 10/05/2023, between 10:30 and 11:30.

Parts of permit assessed: Condition 2 & 3

NRW Lead Officer: Chris Palmer, accompanied by: Rhys Griffiths.

Report sent to: Mark Mason, Operational Supervisor, on 14/09/2023.

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	C2 Significant	2 & 3

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	Provide details on refurbishment or replacement of RBC's	14/12/2023

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 report has been compiled in response to incident ref: 2303820.

This compliance report has been compiled in reference to permit version in effect at the time of the incident (The most recent version of the permit was issued on the 25/05/23, 15 days following the incident/non-compliance)

Environment Officers Chris Palmer and Rhys Griffiths were in the vicinity of Crynant Sewage treatment works and witnessed a large volume of effluent discharging from the gridded channel on the downstream side of the RBC's.

Dwr Cymru operatives were present at the time for planned work involving replacement plant for a defunct RBC and I requested access to site to view the incident.

Membrane material had become dislodged from within an RBC and had passed into the gridded channel, causing a blockage and allowing partially treated effluent to surcharge. The surcharged effluent then flowed along the service road, at a depth of circa. 5-10cm for >230 meters before entering the River Dulais overland near the FE discharge point.

Under the following conditions this is considered as a non-compliance and has been scored a CCS 2 due to the potential for impact for allowing a significant volume of partially treated secondary effluent to enter the River Dulais from an unconsented location.

Condition 2 - The discharge shall consist solely of secondary treated sewage effluent
Condition 3 (a) - Discharging via a pipe

Although raining at the time of the incident, this is not related to hydraulic overload or increased volumes entering the works. This incident and breach occurred as a result of mechanical failure at the site.

It is noted that evidence of previous such blockages was witnessed (discarded and damaged membrane pieces left in situ around the RBC's). In this manner housekeeping is considered poor at site.

I am concerned with the condition of the RBC's and their viability for sustained use.

ACTION

Provide maintenance records for the previous 5 years for the RBC's - Due date 14th December 2023

Provide plan and timescales for refurbishment or replacement of RBC's - Due date 14th December 2023

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.