

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0043054

Permit being assessed: VP3095FS.

For: Soil and Aggregates Treatment Plant, **held by:** Neal Soil Suppliers Ltd

At: Atlantic Ecopark, Newton Road, Rumney, Cardiff, CF3 2EJ.

Type of assessment: Site Inspection,

Reason: Routine.

On: 25/10/2023 between 10:00 and 12:00.

Parts of permit assessed: Wash Plant.

NRW Lead Officer: Lewis Evans, accompanied by Geraint Harris.

Report sent to: John Edwards, Group Compliance Manager, on 19/12/2023.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (compliance criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
IR3D - Emissions and monitoring - Noise and vibration	Action only (X)	

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

Total 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?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
IR3D	Please submit to NRW the noise assessment once the final report has been published to yourselves.	26/01/2024

Compliance 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

Neal Soils Limited

Permit Refence: EPR-VP3095FS

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) officers Lewis EVANS and Geraint HARRIS visited Neal Soils Suppliers Limited hereafter Neals on the 25th of October 2023 to conduct a general site walk-over inspection of the activities that take place on site. Officers arrived on site at 09:50 and met with John EDWARDS, Gavin POWELL and Phil RIDLEY. NRW staff were required to sign in at the offices and given passes while on site.

Wash Plant

The start of the walk over began at the newly updated wash plant area. The area had been completely concreted where it was previously hard standing. An updated trash area was seen first on the wash plant where there are two conveyor lines that come off the wash plant. Material that comes off into the trash area gets sent over to Atlantic Recycling for further processing. At the point where material is put on the conveyor belts to begin the treatment, there are magnets which pull away any metals that may be mixed in with the soil material. This is then sent off for recycling. There is also a bay at the rear which collects oversized material and stone. This is then crushed and is sent off as a product. At the time of the visit the pump was down on the wash plant which resulted in no operations taking place at the wash plant. Apart from the downtime due to breakdown, the wash plant is usually running all the time during working hours.

John mentioned on the walk that a noise assessment had been done on the wash plant area. Although the report was in draft, he stated an approx. figure of around 70dB during operations with a reading of 100dB near the belt press. **ACTION 1: Please submit to NRW the noise assessment once the final report has been published to yourselves.** Further actions may be set out in the report such as extra ear protection for staff working in the area especially if readings exceed 85dB(A).

A further change to the wash plant is that there is now only one product of sand size being produced rather than previously. There are still further bigger products being produced from the wash plant. A sweeper was seen driving over the concrete pad which was said to be continuous and drives in a particular route keeping the area tidy.



Figure 1 - Tanker lorry seen sweeping the yard continuously

The Wash Plant is currently run-on diesel generators, but there are plans for a 10MWth Combined Heat and Power (CHP) engine to be installed on site to power the wash plant instead of the generators. This will be located near the wash plant and will be run on Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) from Atlantic at approximately 20-25k tonnes per annum. This work is still several years away and a permit variation will be required for the engine on site.

To the rear of the wash plant was where the filter press is located. The material from the press drops down underneath and is then moved by machine to a storage area where it is held before being sent off site. Neal Soils are currently looking for an outlet for this material, but it is currently being used as landfill capping / landfill road construction. Hazardous sludge that comes off the wash plant is stored in large tanks and are then taken away to Tredibi when required.

Neals have a quarantine area where material is laid on the concrete pad with the sealed drainage. This was said to be more reactive as usual arrivals of material are checked as they travel across the weighbridge. There are several CCTV cameras located on the weighbridge which allows the staff to inspect the lorries loads upon arrival to site. This was witnessed on the day.

A full walk over of the reens was not completed on the day. However, near the wash plant area the

reens were seen for afar and appeared okay.



Figure 2 - Reens observed from the Wash Plant

Field 5 is where the dry processing takes place on site. On the day there were stockpiles of material that had been processed and other material that was waiting to be processed into a product. The processed material was ready to be exported off site as product. The different stockpiles on the site are in-progress of being processed as they are being screened, part processed and being turned. The on the chosen material from a customer, this will determine which stockpile Neals will supply from.

Where the stone crushing machine was working on the day of this visit, this area is currently being worked on to clear the area to allow space for a concrete pad to be extended from the wash plant area. This area will have sealed drainage.



Figure 3 - Overall view of the wash plant and the material being deposited from the plant



Figure 4- Different fractions of stone coming off the wash plant

Near Neals' office building there were also smaller zones where material is moved to and is ready to be collected by smaller vehicles. There was also a large pile of compost material (Figure 5) in the area which is used by Neals and mixed with material on site to create a product. No odours were observed by the officers at the time of the visit.



Figure 5 - Compost material seen on the year near the offices.

END

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.

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

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 compliance criteria (used in section 1 and 2):

1. Management

- IR1A – General management
- IR1B – Finance (only applicable to Landfill)
- IR1C – Energy efficiency
- IR1D - Efficient use of raw materials
- IR1E - Avoidance, recovery and disposal of wastes produced by the activities
- IR1F - Multiple operator installations

2. Operations

- IR2A – Permitted activities
- IR2B – The site
- IR2C – Operating techniques
- IR2D – Technical requirements
- IR2E – Improvement programme
- IR2F – Pre-operational conditions
- IR2G – Landfill engineering (only applicable to Landfill)
- IR2H – Waste acceptance (only applicable to Landfill)
- IR2I – Leachate levels (only applicable to Landfill)
- IR2J – Closure and aftercare (only applicable to Landfill)
- IR2K – Landfill gas management (only applicable to Landfill)

3. Emission and Monitoring

- IR3A – Emissions to water, air or land
- IR3B – Emissions of substances not controlled by emission limits
- IR3C – Odour
- IR3D – Noise and vibration
- IR3E – Monitoring
- IR3F – Pests
- IR3G – Air quality management plans
- IR3H – Monitoring for the purposes of the Industrial Emissions Directive (this heading includes Large Combustion Plants)
- IR3I – Fire

4. Information

- IR4A – Records
- IR4B – Reporting
- IR4C – Notification

Enforcement response

Any non-compliance with a permit condition 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 twenty 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 to 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.