

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0042847

Permit being assessed: BB3891CG.

For: Cog Moors Wastewater Treatment Works, **held by:** DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

At: Green Lane, Dinas Powys, CF64 2TR.

Type of assessment: Report/Data Review,

Reason: Routine.

On: 21/11/2023.

Parts of permit assessed: Odour Monitoring.

NRW Lead Officer: Lewis Evans.

Report sent to: Keith Harris, Performance Manager, on 22/01/2024.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (compliance criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
IR3A - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water, air or land	C3 Minor	3.1.2
IR1A - Management - General management	C3 Minor	1.1.1 (a)

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

Total non-compliances recorded	Total non-compliance score
2	8

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
IR3A	Action 1: Regularly check all Odour Control Units on site as per the Odour Management Plan and in particular the carbon media. Submit the results of the carbon media to NRW as soon as available.	01/03/2024
IR1A	Please provide evidence that measures have been put in place to remedy these issues with the odour control units as soon as possible.	01/03/2024

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

Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water Cog Moors Wastewater Treatment Works

Permit Reference – BB3891CG

Schedule 5 Notification of Odour Control Unit Emission Breach

On the 15th of November 2023, Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) notified Natural Resources Wales (NRW) of a breach of emission point A7 (Odour Control Unit C) at the Cog Moors Wastewater Treatment Works.

The breach was detected on the 14th of November at 09:00 and the notification was submitted to NRW within 24 hours.

The following table shows the emission limit values for Odour:

Table S3.1 Point source emissions to air – emission limits and monitoring requirements

Emission point ref. & location	Source	Parameter	Limit (including unit)	Reference period	Monitoring frequency	Monitoring standard or method
A6 [point A6 on document reference 4793-S-203-HYD-XX-XX-DR-NX-08006_Emission Points]	Odour Control Unit A	Odour	1000 OU _E /Nm ³	None specified	Every 6 months	BS EN 13725
A7 [point A7 on document reference 4793-S-203-HYD-XX-XX-DR-NX-08006_Emission Points]	Odour Control Unit C	Odour	1000 OU _E /Nm ³	None specified	Every 6 months	BS EN 13725
A8 [point A8 on document reference 4793-S-203-HYD-XX-XX-DR-NX-08006_Emission Points]	Odour Control Unit B	Odour	1000 OU _E /Nm ³	None specified	Every 6 months	BS EN 13725

Permit condition 3.1.2 states “The limits given in Schedule 3 shall not be exceeded.” Above is Table S3.1 taken from the permit, which shows the limit value for odour at emission points 6, 7 and 8. DCWW reported a value of 2,209.33OU_E/Nm³ on emission point 7 during their 6 monthly testing on the 7th of November 2023. However, emission points A6 and A8 had 930.66 and 367.33 respectively. As a result of OCU C being 2,209.33 OU_E/Nm³, permit condition 3.1.2 has been breached and a *category 3 non-compliance* will be scored.

DCWW have stated that a sample of carbon media has been taken from the OCU and has been analysed to try and identify what the root cause is.

On the 22nd of December 2023, DCWW submitted the OSIL Carbon Analysis Report. Within the report

Moisture, Volatiles, CTC And Sulphur were analysed.

There was 13.5% moisture found on the sample taken from the OCU and is slightly high for the OCU, the report suggests that the air in which the carbon has been treating has high residual humidity. The Volatiles had a very high reading of 28% of volatiles content which indicated that it has adsorbed a lot of contaminants. This suggests that the carbon media within the OCU will need to be replaced in order for it to work efficiently. The CTC sample indicated that a lot of volatiles have been adsorbed, however in the method of testing a lot of volatiles will have been driven off when the samples were dried. The Sulphur content was calculated as a percentage and determined by X-Ray Florescence. The result from the OCU was 10.59% which is elevated and showed that Sulphur based compounds have been adsorbed by the OCU.

Overall, from the OSIL report the results show that the carbon media within OCU-C will need to be replaced.

The operator has submitted to NRW their Odour management Plan on the 9th of May 2023. Section 5.6 shows the monitoring for the odour treatment system and displays the monitoring completed on the OCU across the site. Here it states that the carbon filter will be replaced on removal performance or excessive back pressure. What have the back pressure levels been when conducting the monthly checks? As the OCU also failed earlier in the year, had any changes been made on site to check more frequently.

Action: Regularly check all Odour Control Units on site as per the Odour Management Plan and in particular the carbon media. Submit the results of the carbon media to NRW as soon as available.

Permit condition 1.1.1(a) states:

“The operator shall manage and operate the activities:

- a. in accordance with a written management system that identifies and minimises risks of pollution, including those arising from operations, maintenance, accidents, incidents, non-conformances, closure and those drawn to the attention of the operator as a result of complaints.

As this is the second breach of this nature to occur on site relating to the odour control units, there has been a clear management failure in the control/maintenance of these units. As a result, a Category 3 non-compliance will be scored against permit condition 1.1.1 (a).

Action: Please provide evidence that measures have been put in place to remedy these issues with the odour control units.

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.