

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0043158

Permit being assessed: BO5111601

For: CSO and EO at Pontarddulais Pumping Station, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG
At: Access off Llys Morfydd, Pontarddulais, Swansea, SA4 8TF.

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

On 11/01/2024, between 09:30 and 10:30.

Parts of permit assessed: Operations & Emissions and monitoring

NRW Lead Officer: Sarah Bennett, accompanied by: Catherine Tucker, Gareth Martin, Hamish Osborn.

Report sent to: CARS@dwrwymru.com, CARS Mailbox, on 23/01/2024.

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	Assessed (A)	
WQ-B2 - Operations - The site	Action only (X)	
WQ-B3 - Operations - Operating techniques	Action only (X)	
WQ-C1 - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	Action only (X)	

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

2. What action is required?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
WQ-B2	Please can you confirm, giving 10 figure NGRs, where the Point of Overflow is and also where the following activities take place, when required: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Storm sewage effluent sampling. Storm sewage event duration monitoring. Sewage in an emergency effluent sampling. 	30/04/2024
WQ-B3	Please can you confirm the route any emergency discharge would take from the pumping station to the discharge point and also whether or not it would utilise any storage or be screened.	30/04/2024
WQ-C1	Please review the Pumping Station Key Protection Measures (PSKPM), checking if there are any omissions and/or errors. Report your findings to me.	30/04/2024

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.

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

On the 11 January 2024 we carried out an inspection of Pontarddulais Sewage Pumping Station with DCWW. The weather was dry with the last rain falling on the 7 January.

The permit allows both a storm and an emergency discharge to occur under certain conditions.

The storm provision

The incoming flows pass through a grit removal chamber before entering the wet well of the pumping station.

Flows in excess of 236.95 litres/second weir over from the wet well into a dry well (storm well) from where the storm sewage is pumped into the storm tank. The flows were at 116 litres/second at the time of our visit, so the storm well was not filling, nor was the storm pump operating.

Advisory

At the time of the inspection a submersible pump was installed to pump the storm to the storm tanks due to issues with the in-situ pumps. Whilst I am unable to assess the robustness of this arrangement, I would ask DCWW to ensure that it is fit for purpose over extended periods of time.

The permit specifies that the storm storage shall be a minimum of 890.8m³. The size of the storm tank was confirmed during a recent permit variation in 2022.

The storm tanks had not been cleaned out since they were last used, however, the tank was relatively clean with only a small amount of dry sludge and rag sitting on the bottom of the tank.

Once the storm tank is full, flows weir over into the overflow channel and pass through a 10 mm bar screen. The bar screen is manually cleaned, and the screening are collected and removed from site. The screen was clean at the time of our inspection.

The contents of the storm tank are returned to the pumping station automatically.

There was an EDM monitor located above the storm tank. Looking at the annual data submitted for 2022, the monitor appears to be fully operational with data being collected 99.51% of the time.

The permit indicates that storm sewage is discharged via a chamber located near to the grit removal chamber prior to the pumping station. In the permit this is called the Point of Overflow and it is where monitoring takes place.

At the time of the inspection the arrangements appeared to be different to this and it was not clear at which point storm sewage leaves the pumping station compound and enters

the overflow pipe.

Action

Please can you confirm, giving 10 figure NGRs, where the Point of Overflow is and also where the following activities take place, when required:

- **storm sewage effluent sampling**
- **storm sewage event duration monitoring**
- **sewage in an emergency effluent sampling**

The outfall is located on the intertidal bank of the Loughor. We did not inspect the outfall on this occasion.

The emergency overflow provision

Condition 2.3.1 requires that for activity A2 (*an emergency discharge*) referenced in schedule 1, table S1.1, the activity shall, subject to the conditions of this permit, be operated using the techniques and in the manner described in the documentation specified in schedule 1, table S1.2, (*the PSKPM pumping station key protection measures*) unless otherwise agreed in writing by Natural Resources Wales.

The PSKPM for Pontarddulais SPS describes an emergency storage provision of 890.9m³ (in dry weather) and a 10mm bar screen. Please find the PSKPM attached.

During the site inspection you indicated that the emergency overflow would operate by sewage backing up from the SPS and discharging to a point upstream of the grit removal chamber. This appears to match with the Point of Overflow location specified in the permit.

However, at the time of the inspection, it was not possible to establish if an emergency overflow would discharge directly to the outfall from here, or be directed to the emergency storage (which I presume is the storm tank).

Action

Please can you confirm the route which any emergency discharge would take and also whether or not it would utilise any storage or be screened.

Action

Please review the PSKPM, checking if all fields have been filled out correctly, if there are any omissions and if there are any errors. Report your findings to me.

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.