

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0043811

Permit being assessed: ZP3939GL.

For: Western Wood Energy Plant, **held by:** Western Bio-energy Ltd

At: Longland Lane , Margam, PORT TALBOT, West Glamorgan, SA13 2NR.

Type of assessment: Site Inspection,

Reason: Routine.

On: 14/02/2024 between 11:00 and 14:30.

Parts of permit assessed: See Summary, Compliance Criteria Assessed.

NRW Lead Officer: Elliot Jones, accompanied by Michael Launder.

Report sent to: Simon Thomas, Plant Manager , on 21/03/2024.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (compliance criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
IR1A - Management - General management	Assessed (A)	
IR2B - Operations - The site	Assessed (A)	
IR2C - Operations - Operating techniques	Assessed (A)	
IR3A - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water, air or land	Assessed (A)	

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?

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

Western Bio Energy Site Visit

Purpose of Compliance Assessment Report

- Review of a site visit undertaken on 14th February 2024.

Attendees

Simon Thomas – Plant Manager

Roderic Lerwell- Site CEO

Steven Pemberton - O&M Manager

Elliot Jones- Senior Officer Southwest Industry Regulation (NRW)

Michael Launder- Lead Specialist Southwest Industry Regulation (NRW)

This Compliance Assessment Report was completed following a site visit undertaken by Elliot Jones and Michael Launder on 14th February 2024. Elliot Jones has recently been allocated the Western Bio Energy biomass installation based in Margam and will be the regulatory officer for all Environmental Permitting Regulation (EPR) matters going forward on behalf of Natural Resources Wales. The main purpose of the site visit was to provide Elliot Jones and Michael Launder with a process overview of site operations and to meet the technical team at Western Bio Energy Limited.

Discussion

Initial introduction and site PowerPoint induction undertaken. Operator confirmed that the delayed Biannual 2 2023 periodic monitoring has now been undertaken. Monitoring carried out early February and monitoring results to be issued in conjunction with 2024 quarter 1 monitoring returns.

Process Overview- Site tour

The operator provided NRW officers with a comprehensive process overview covering all aspects of plant operations, accompanied by Simon Thomas and Steven Pemberton. This included observing weighbridge operations and incoming fuel sampling procedure, in addition to the laboratory where fuel moisture testing is undertaken.

During the walkover, a damaged perimeter security fence was noted at the rear of the fuel storage bays to the western edge of the site. The Operator has erected and secured a temporary fence panel to close gap in fence and a permanent repair is planned.

Biomass holding bays and internal dry biomass store viewed. Holding bay storage estimated to be at 50% capacity during the visit. The officers were taken into the control room to view how the SNCR system is operated by technical personnel. The system shown was able to carry out online BSEN1418 QAL3 testing.

The area where the reagent (urea) is stored was also shown to the NRW officers. The multiple floors of the boiler attended from product input to the lower boiler grate. Turbine room accessed and observed. Fly ash filter housing accessed, and bottom ash collection system seen operational.

Bunded diesel tank viewed along with the site plant fuel filling system. Fuel filling drainage system incorporates pumping mechanism returning any spilt fuel into the bunded fuel tank system.

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.