

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0043824

Permit being assessed: AG0008301

For: DUFFRYN ISAF SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

At: ELY VALLEY ROAD, YNYSMAERDY, LLANTRISANT, RHONDDA CYNON TAFF, CF72 8LN.

Type of assessment carried out: Site Inspection, Reason: Incident Response (Incident number: 2401063).

On 19/01/2024, between 11:02 and 11:40.

Parts of permit assessed: Emissions to water

NRW Lead Officer: Ceri Malone, accompanied by: Paul Latham.

Report sent to: CARS@dwrcymru.com, CARS@dwrcymru.com, on 08/04/2024.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
WQ-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	C3 Minor	3.1.1 The limits given in schedule 3 table S3.1 shall not be exceeded.
WQ-C3 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions of substances not controlled by emission limits	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-C1	Investigate the potential source of phosphorus input.	Already completed
WQ-C3	Provide NRW with copies of the trade effluent consents in the catchment which were considered as potential causes of the input.	04/05/2024

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.

You are non-compliant with your permit.

At this time, we are issuing you with a warning for the non-compliance recorded above. Warnings may influence future enforcement response for continued or further non-compliance.

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

Site Report

On 14/01/2024 turbidity samples from Duffryn Isaf WWTW showed signs of poor performance. An early warning was submitted on 15/01/2024 by DCWW to NRW as sample results were still within consent but deteriorating. Upgrading to a self-report was completed by 19/01/2024. Results remained poor until 21/01/2024 when normal results recommenced. NRW Environment Officers Ceri Malone and Paul Latham attended the outfall from the WWTW at 11:02 on 19/01/2024. Foaming water was present approximately 1.5m deep coming from the permitted outfall discharge point, (NGR ST 02709 84869; permit: AG0008301) see photograph 1.



Photograph 1 - AG0008301 Outfall on 19/01/2024

Officers Malone and Latham entered Duffryn Isaf WWTW at 11:25 where there was a smell of detergent present on site. A tanker was on site taking wastewater from the site to Cardiff WWTW. Another tanker was on also on site reseeding the WWTW. Foam was present at the U.W.W.T.R discharge sample point – see photograph 2. Officers left site at 11:40.



Photograph 2 - U.W.W.T.R Discharge Sample Point on 19/01/2024

A return site visit to the outfall was conducted by officers Malone and Latham at 10:40 on 23/01/2024. Foam had cleared (photograph 3) and a sample was taken by the officers with results within limits specified on the permit.

DCWW had been conducting sampling at the site with a phosphorus result of 2.77mg/l seen on 17/01/2024. Other results were higher than typically seen at the site but remained within compliance limits.

It was determined that a source of the problem could have been an input up sewer due to the phosphate results, smell of detergent and visual impact. DCWW confirmed that a network investigation to attempt to identify the source was conducted but a source was not found. Final effluent detergent sampling was conducted but none at the inlet of the WWTW. An investigation into potential trade inputs was conducted by DCWW on 14/03/2024 however this did not result in the source of the input being identified.



Photograph 3 – Outfall from WWTW on 23/01/2024

Breaches of permit condition:

Condition: 3.1.1 The limits given in schedule 3 table S3.1 shall not be exceeded.

A phosphorus sample was taken on 17/01/2024 by DCWW with a result of 2.77mg/l. This exceeded the 2.0mg/l limit set in Table S3.1 of the permit. This discharge, considering the poor performance and visual impact had the potential to have a minor environmental effect.

Action required by dates specified:

- Mitigation actions completed including reseeded the WWTW and using tankers to take effluent to other sites - completed at the time of the incident.
- Investigate the potential source of the phosphorus input - completed with trade site visit by DCWW operative on 14/03/2024
- **Provide NRW with copies of the trade effluent consents in the catchment which were considered as potential causes of the input by 04/05/2024.**

Other advisory comments:

It is advised that in the event of any similar future incident a full investigation is conducted into potential inputs including inlet sampling and timely trade visits. It is advised that any screening/scoping exercises conducted by DCWW to determine potential sources of the input is recorded along with site visit findings

and included in any report to NRW.

Contact details:

If you have any queries regarding this CAR form or to provide an update on any actions above, please contact me using the following details: Ceri Malone, Environment Officer,
Ceri.Malone@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

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.