

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0043980

Permit being assessed: BO5095801

For: Grovesend PS, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

At: Grovesend , Gorseinon , Swansea , SA4 1DH .

Type of assessment carried out: Unknown, Reason: Incident Response (Incident number: 2403426).

On 12/03/2024.

Parts of permit assessed: Permitted Activities and Notifications

NRW Lead Officer: Sarah Bennett.

Report sent to: CARS@dwrwymru.com, CARS Mailbox, on 10/04/2024.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
WQ-B1 - Water Quality - Operations - Permitted activities	Assessed (A)	
WQ-D3 - Water Quality - Information - Notifications	Assessed (A)	
WQ-B3 - Water Quality - Operations - Operating techniques	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-B3	Please submit to NRW the Pumping Station Key Protection Measures (PSKPM) as described in Condition 2.3.1 Schedule 1 Table S1.2.	07/06/2024

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 01/03/2024 you notified NRW, via an OPNOT, that one of the two pumps at Grovesend Pumping Station had a mechanical failure and had been taken off-line for

repairs leaving the PS without a duty standby pump. You informed us that the permitted flows were being passed forward to Llannant WwTW by the remaining pump.

On the 12/03/2024 you notified NRW, via a self-reported WATPOL that the remaining pump had failed, and no flows were being passed forward resulting in a spill from the Emergency Overflow.

Over the next 2 days the pump was repeatedly reset only to fail again. During this time there were several discharges, some of them prolonged. The equinoctial tide prevented continuous access to the PS and hampered your response. Eventually an inverter fault was identified and rectified.

A Pollution Incident Storyboard has been submitted which gives details of the event and your actions during and after. Below is an extract from the storyboard listing the actions you have completed and intend to complete.

Detail	
Pollution cause	Equipment Failure – Electrical Failure
Brief description of cause	Inverter Drive Fault
Actions taken (1)	Tankers brought to site to maintain flows (complete)
Actions taken (2)	Inverter drive swapped over from pump 1 to pump 2 (complete)
Actions taken (3)	Faulty inverter drive replaced and new pump installed (complete)
Actions taken (4)	Full incident review to be held (TBD)
Actions taken (5)	Second inverter drive to be replaced (TBD)
Actions taken (6)	Removed pump to be brought back to site as a critical spare (TBD)
Actions taken (7)	Review Investment Manager Risks for the site (TBD)
Actions taken (8)	Pressure monitor to be installed on site (TBD)
Actions taken (9)	EDM levels at the SPS to be reviewed (TBD)

I have assessed if the emergency discharge was compliant with the following relevant permit condition and have concluded that it was.

2.1 Permitted activities

Under condition 2.1.1 you are permitted to discharge sewage in an emergency as long as the sewage pumping station is inoperative as a result of one or more of the following, which is not due to the act or default of the operator, its agents, representatives, officers, employees or servants;

- electrical power failure;
- mechanical breakdown of duty and standby pumps;
- rising main failure;
- blockage of the downstream sewer.

4.3 Notifications

4.3.1. Natural Resources Wales shall be notified as soon as reasonably practicable following detection, within the site of the regulated facility of any malfunction, breakdown or failure of equipment or techniques, accident, or emission of a substance not controlled by an emission limit which has caused, is causing or may cause significant pollution.

I would expect the actions you have and will take to minimise the risk of a future breakdown. It is noted that in July 2023 there was a previous inverter fault which led to both

pumps failing resulting in an emergency discharge.

If we consider that a discharge has occurred due to the act or default of the operator, we would not be able to assess such a discharge as compliant with the permit.

Action: Please submit to NRW the Pumping Station Key Protection Measures (PSKPM) as described in Condition 2.3.1 Schedule 1 Table S1.2.

Thank you.

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 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.