

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0044117

Permit being assessed: BP0287801

For: Storm and Emergency Overflow at Baglan Sewage Pumping Station, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

At: Road through Baglan Energy Park, Off Brunel Way, Briton Ferry, Neath, SA11 2GA.

Type of assessment carried out: Report/Data Review, Reason: Incident Response (Incident number: 2307468).

On 22/09/2023.

Parts of permit assessed: All

NRW Lead Officer: Owen Caughlin.

Report sent to: CARS Mailbox, Operational Supervisor, on 25/04/2024.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
WQ-A1 - Water Quality - Management - General management	C2 Significant	2.3.1.

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

2. What action is required?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
WQ-A1	Reinstate standby power to prevent recurrence of this type of incident and return to compliance. Provide information on reinstatement of standby power.	Already completed

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.

We are currently considering taking enforcement action against you for the non-compliance recorded above. We will contact you in due course.

4. Details of our assessment

On 22/09/2023 Neath Port Talbot Environment Team received a WIRS report (2307468). The report related to a total loss of power to Baglan SPS. This led to the operation of the 'sewage in emergency' discharge to the Afon Nedd (Point of Discharge 2 in permit BP0287801). This discharge has not been considered to be compliant with the permit. The

reason for this is that the permit stipulates that standby power should be provided at this site for use in this scenario. During inspections in 2022 (Ref - CAR_NRW0039957) and earlier in 2023 (Ref - CAR_NRW0042242) and in subsequent discussions it has been confirmed that this standby provision was no longer in place.

This discharge had a detrimental impact on water quality in the receiving watercourse (Afon Nedd) and downstream bathing water (Aberafan). Additionally it should be noted that this discharge happened during the bathing water season. The impact to Water Quality for this pollution incident was classified as Low / CAT 3 while the CCS classification for this non compliance is CCS2 due to the potential impact and environmental implications of remaining without standby power.

Updates showed that this instance of power outage was resolved on the same day (22/09/2023), with the discharge from the pumping stations ceasing and operation returning to a 'normal' state. The discharge operated for approximately 1.5hrs with all incoming flows being discharged to the Afon Nedd. This is significant when the area the pumping station is considered (an area from Resolven down to Baglan including Neath, Britton Ferry and much of Baglan).

Non Compliance – A low level pollution incident occurred as a result of a power outage with no onsite standby power provision to prevent or minimise it.

Condition – 2.3.1. Ref Table S1.2 Pumping Station Key Protection Measures Document (Version 1, 04/01/2023).

Action – Reinstate standby power for all operations at Baglan SPS ASAP.

Additional Note - This incident has now ceased and we understand that temporary generators are now in place to prevent its recurrence whilst a permanent solution is put in place.

Action Please could you confirm this via email for our records, including details of the generators installed, confirmation that all site operations will be covered by these generators, a timescale for the permanent solution and any other relevant details/documents Due - 20/05/2024.

ENDS.

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.