

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0042217

Permit being assessed: BB3006701

For: PENY BONT SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG
At: PENY BONT SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS, OGMORE BY SEA, BRIDGEND CBC, WALES, .

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

On 13/07/2023, between 10:00 and 12:00.

Parts of permit assessed: all

NRW Lead Officer: Natalie Wrangham, accompanied by: Hannah Jenkins, Sion Evans.

Report sent to: CARS@dwrcymru, mailbox, on 07/05/2024.

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-B3 - Water Quality - Operations - Operating techniques	C3 Minor	17 The works shall be operated and the effluent shall be treated in a manner which, so far as reasonably practicable, minimises the polluting effects of the discharge made from the works on controlled waters
WQ-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	C3 Minor	16 - As far as is reasonably practicable, the works shall be operated so as to prevent the discharge from containing any significant trace of visible oil and grease

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	Aerator in aeration chamber to be repaired	31/07/2024
WQ-C1	Stop contamination from entering final effluent and address issue with leak from motor	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.

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

Site and OSM inspection of Penybont wastewater treatment works on 13/07/2023.
Inspection carried out by Environment Officers from the Cwm Taf and Bridgend Environment Team.

The weather on the day of inspection was bright and dry, however there had been localised rain over the proceeding few days.

Met with the Central Performance Manager and Supervisor who escorted us around the site. They explained there were some works going on around one of the primary tanks to replace the flooring around the tank. They explained this was not impacting on any of the site operations.

Site inspection

Outfall

First we checked the outfall to the river Ogmore. Discharge appeared clear with little odour see Picture 1 below. Some sign of historic ragging on the screen. DCWW explained this was because of a previous issue with the storm screen being blinded previously, but the problem has now been rectified.



Picture 1: Outfall

Inlet and screening

Main screw in operation. DCWW advised that the current inflow was well below the 1650 litres maximum full treatment flow. The site has a new flows to storm monitor. This is not MCERTS.

MCERT meter for flows to treatment. Screens were functional, no issues observed.

Settlement tanks and aeration chambers

DCWW advised they are currently going through a maintenance program to de-vegetate the settlement tanks. NRW asked what the contingency plans are for primary tank failure or maintenance where one tank needs to be taken off line? Currently the 2nd primary tank is unused and is heavily vegetated. No plans to instate the 2nd tank for any purpose.

Aeration chamber - one tank on right side with burst aerator (Picture 4). Could see difference in spread of oxygen. DCWW advised they are waiting until the autumn to repair. I have not seen any notification of this issue. Please can a notification be sent to NRW. DCWW have installed blanket monitors on the final settlement tanks to monitor the sludge level.



Picture 2: Primary settlement tank



Picture 3: fully functioning aeration chamber



Picture 4: Aeration chamber with faulty aerator

Final effluent

NRW noticed whilst inspecting the final effluent channel prior to the UV treatment, an oily sheen on the effluent. This was traced back to final effluent tank 4 where the motor for the arm appeared to be leaking oil/fuel (Picture 5). The motor was stopped at 11.41 to be inspected. Immediately could see the change in settleability of the wastewater sludge in this final tank once the arm had ceased rotating. Absorbent mats were obtained to try and remove the oil from the surface of the wastewater in the tank. Advised DCWW OPNOT needed to be submitted. DCWW advised flows from the tank would be isolated whilst the issue was addressed. OPNOT 316628294 submitted for this issue on 13/07/2023. OPNOT final sent 14/07/2023.

NRW had some queries regarding the position of the final effluent monitor. Advised this be checked with the MCERTS team.

MCERTS meter for final effluent showed that it had been inspected 18/09/2022.



Picture 5: Final effluent tank no.4 with oil visible on surface

Storm tanks

Storm tanks were empty at the time of the visit. Fair amount of vegetation and sediment in the tanks which is scheduled to be removed.

Future works

- DCWW advised that there is planned works to maintain the screws in the aeration lane in the next few months. Wastewater will be over pumped into the works during the maintenance.

Actions

- Aerator to be fixed in aeration chamber by **31st March 2024** as agreed. **I cannot see that a notification for this was submitted to NRW. Please can this be done asap.**
- De-vegetation and de-silting of storm tanks to be undertaken by **31st October 2023**
- Check with MCERTS team location of final effluent monitor by **31st August 2023**

Note - CAR form updated 07/05/2024 to extend dates of actions:

- Aerator to be fixed in aeration chamber by 31st March 2024 as agreed - **updated to 31st July 2024 in agreement with DCWW**
- De-vegetation and de-silting of storm tanks to be undertaken by 31st October 2023 - **updated to 31st July 2024 in agreement with DCWW**

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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.