

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0044274

Permit being assessed: AD0001701

For: Talybont Wastewater Treatment Works, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG
At: Talybont WwTW, Access track off Maesmawr Lane', Talybont-on-Usk, Brecon, Powys,
LD3 7JG.

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

On 30/04/2024, between 10:58 and 11:20.

Parts of permit assessed: See Criteria Below

NRW Lead Officer: Robert Harding, accompanied by: Chris Gurney.

Report sent to: CARS Mailbox, CARS Mailbox, on 13/05/2024.

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	Assessed (A)	
WQ-B1 - Water Quality - Operations - Permitted activities	Assessed (A)	
WQ-B3 - Water Quality - Operations - Operating techniques	Assessed (A)	
WQ-B3 - Water Quality - Operations - Operating techniques	Action only (X)	
WQ-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	Assessed (A)	

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	De-Sludge primary and final settlement tanks and provide confirmation that it has been completed . DCWW should consider increasing the frequency of sludge removal	01/07/2024

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

This was a pre-planned OSM site inspection conducted by Natural Resources Wales Officers Robert Harding and Chris Gurney. We were shown around the site by the following DCWW representatives.

GM- Catchment Manager

TB- Supervisor

The weather during the visit was overcast with intermittent showers. We were shown through the works from inlet through to the outfall.

General Observations

The STW is an aerated filtration works with a permitted storm discharge. The works received a new consolidated permit which came into effect on 21/02/2024, bringing together the STW and Storm discharges. The site is an unmanned site which is attended by operatives on a set schedule. Telemetry equipment is in place to monitor the works when unmanned.

Inlet and Storm

The incoming flows into the works are through a combined gravity sewer. There is a storm discharge at the site, which was previously permitted separately, but now is contained within the new consolidated permit.

The flows into the works arrive at the inlet and pass the storm weir before any screening.

The storm weir on site has a set weir height within the channel. Flows can only overflow into the storm channel once levels reach a certain height. At the time of inspection, the works were not running to storm, as the level was below the storm weir height. There is an EDM level sensor in operation at the storm weir, which is in place to record when the works are running to storm (based on inlet level). There is a rotary screen in place within the storm channel. This screen was not moving at the time of inspection; however, it was stated that this automatically starts once the works start discharging into the storm channel.

There is a single rectangular storm tank in operation on site. The storm tank has retention boards on the outfall end, similar in appearance to a settlement tank. The outfall channel is located at the top of the tank, meaning a discharge can only be made once the storm storage is fully utilised and levels are high enough to pass into the channel. The storm tank was full at the time of inspection, however there was no discharge being made through the storm outfall channel. There is an EDM level sensor in operation within the storm tank. The storm tank on site is automatically returned to the head of the works once inflow drops to a specified level.

There is a macerator in operation following the storm weir. All flows to treatment pass through the macerator. This was clearly operational at the time of inspection.

Submerged Aerated Filter

The main treatment system is a Submerged Aerated Filter (SAF) system. The SAF has a submerged filter media, which provides a contact area for bacteria within the tank. The influent initially passes into a primary settlement tank, which appeared to have a large quantity of sludge present on the surface of the tank. It was not possible to see the effluent from the settlement tank, as it is submerged within the SAF unit.

The effluent then enters the aeration treatment tank. Air is blown into the tank to create an aerated environment which helps encourage biological activity to break down the sewage. The aeration system was clearly operational at the time of inspection. Following on from the aeration chamber, the flows into a final settlement tank.

The final settlement tank is under cover. On visual inspection the surface of the tank was covered with what appeared to be sludge, and it was not possible to see the effluent flowing from the final settlement. There is no additional treatment/settlement so flows from the SAF unit then head to the outfall for discharge to the receiving watercourse.

The sludge build up present within the SAF unit is a cause for concern, as this may cause problems within the treatment process if left unchecked. I questioned how often the system was de-sludged and was advised that it was every 4 weeks. This does not appear to be frequent enough based on the visual appearance whilst on site.

Outfall and Sampling point

The final effluent sample point is clearly marked with appropriate signage including the sample point number. The effluent within the sample chamber appeared to be flowing clear of any solids or signs of polluting matter. The outfall into the watercourse (Caerfanell) was not checked on this occasion. The outfall is located alongside the watercourse on the other side of the field adjacent to the treatment works compound.

General Comments

The works has recently received consolidated permit with updated emissions limits (including Phosphorus) effective 21/02/2024. The treatment works appears to be producing effluent which is compliant to the emissions limits set out within the permit.

Actions required- By 01/07/2024.

1. De-Sludge the primary and final settlement tanks on site soon as possible. Provide confirmation once this has been completed (or provide the date it was last removed if this has already been completed) Additionally, DCWW should consider increasing the frequency of sludge removal at this works, to protect the treatment process.

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.