

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0043220

Permit being assessed: BW1404301

For: Garnswllt STW Longelin Ammanford Settled Storm, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

At: Nr Coal Rd, Ammanford, Carmarthenshire, SA18 2RH.

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

On 11/01/2024, between 10:45 and 12:00.

Parts of permit assessed: Operations & Emissions and Monitoring

NRW Lead Officer: Sarah Bennett, accompanied by: Catherine Tucker, Gareth Martin, Hamish Osborn.

Report sent to: CARS@dwrwymru.com, CARS Mailbox, on 14/05/2024.

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 | Assessed (A) | |
| WQ-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water | Assessed (A) | |
| WQ-B3 - Water Quality - Operations - Operating techniques | Action only (X) | |
| WQ-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water | 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 could you confirm that the arrangements and settings in place to return storm sewage to the works are optimised, so allowing the storm tanks to be emptied as soon as possible after rainfall ceases. | 30/04/2024 |
| WQ-C1 | Please provide us with an explanation as to why the number of EDM recorded counted spills has fallen so suddenly between 2020 and 2022. | 30/04/2024 |

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

Note: Paragraph 10 in the comments of this CAR was amended on the 14/05/2024 to correct a mistake. I had incorrectly said that in 2022 the recorded number of counted spills fell to 23 with a duration of 935 hours. This should have read 43 spills with a duration of 935 hours.

This Compliance Assessment Report relates to the settled storm effluent discharge permit. A separate CAR has been issued for the final effluent discharge permit inspection.

On the 11 January 2024 we carried out a site inspection of Garnswllt Waste Water Treatment Works with DCWW. The weather was dry with the last rain falling on the 7 January 2024.

When we arrived at the works the flows coming in were still relatively high at 279 l/s. The FPF setting is 360 l/s so the works was not going to storm.

The inlet channel was free from any obstructions. Flows in excess of 360 l/s pass through 6mm screens before continuing to the storm tanks which provide 2820m³ of storage. The screens were clean at the time of the inspection. As no storm discharge was occurring, they were not operating.

The storm tanks were partially full following a previous rainfall event. Settled storm effluent had started to return to the works for full treatment.

As it had been dry for 3 days, we would expect the storm tanks to be empty and ready for the next heavy rainfall event. Condition 2.3.1 (b) requires the storm tanks to be emptied and their contents returned to the continuation flow as soon as reasonably practicable.

You explained that the storm return does not start operating until the incoming flows fall to around 260 l/s when the works is able to adequately treat the additional loading introduced from the storm tanks without compromising the quality of the final effluent.

Action

Please could you confirm that the arrangements and settings in place to return storm sewage to the works are optimised, so allowing the storm tanks to be emptied as soon as possible after rainfall ceases.

Improvement works which are due to be completed by the end of this AMP period (March 2025) will increase the capacity of the works to treat more flows. Once the improvements have been delivered, we would expect the storm tanks to be emptied more expeditiously.

I have looked at the Event Duration Monitoring data submitted to NRW and can see that the monitor appears to be fully operational, recording over 99% of the time. According to the data there has been a significant reduction in the number of spills since 2020 when the

EDM recorded 336 counted spills with a total duration of 7438 hours. In 2021 the number of recorded counted spills was 264 with a total duration of 5631 hours. Then in 2022 the recorded number of counted spills fell to 43 with a duration of 935 hours.

Action

Please provide us with an explanation as to why the number of recorded counted spills has fallen so suddenly.

Settled storm effluent is discharge to the Loughor via the same outfall as the final effluent. We did not inspect the outfall at the time of the visit.

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.