



**Cyfoeth
Naturiol**
Cymru
**Natural
Resources**
Wales

C Grimshaw
Catchment Performance Manager

Ein cyf / Our ref:
Eich cyf / Your ref:

Sent via email

Dyddiad/Date: 20 December 2017

Dear Craig

SAMPLE FAILURE AT FIVE FORDS WWTW ON 1 APRIL 2017

Thank you for your email of 28 August 2017 containing additional information in relation to the sample failure at Five Fords WWTW on 1 April 2017.

The additional information is helpful as it gives more detail about the sample failure although it does not provide sufficient justification to allow the result to be excluded for compliance assessment purposes.

My reasoning for this decision is as follows:

- Why is the penstock not alarmed if there is a power failure to advise it is fully open and not operating to PFF?
- The intermittent power supply appears to have caused the penstock to lose its programmed values with the valve opening fully passing higher flows forward. Given the flow regime at Five Fords and the need to keep flows at or below 806 litres per second so as not to compromise treatment efficiency why was decision made to operate on generator power alone on a Saturday when staffing levels are reduced? What liaison was made between Capital and Operations staff to identify likely problems and work up acceptable solutions?

My view is that there was a short duration event where flows through the works rapidly increased above FFT before returning to below 806 litres per second. By itself this additional flow may not have caused a sample failure but the likelihood of a sample failure was increased by one of the final settlement tanks being offline for scheduled and long term repair. In my opinion you should have considered whether the Capital works could have been delayed during the FST repair to avoid additional risk to the works.

This is why I cannot accept your request to excluded these results from compliance assessment.

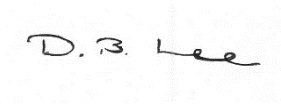
Yours sincerely

www.cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

www.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

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Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg
Correspondence welcomed in Welsh and English

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. B. Lee". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "L" at the end.

David Lee
NRM Team Leader

Ebost/Email