

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0044373

Permit being assessed: BR97151B.

For: Newport Chemical Complex, **held by:** Solutia UK Ltd

At: Corporation Road , Newport, South Wales, NP19 4XF.

Type of assessment: Report/Data Review,

Reason: Routine.

On: 20/05/2024 between 11:00 and 16:45.

Parts of permit assessed: CLP and review of Schedule 5s.

NRW Lead Officer: Rebecca Green, accompanied by Luke Burton.

Report sent to: Stephen Thomas, Environmental Specialist, on 22/05/2024.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (compliance criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
IR3A - Installations - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water, air or land	Assessed (A)	
IR3B - Installations - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions of substances not controlled by emission limits	Assessed (A)	
IR3E - Installations - Emissions and monitoring - Monitoring	Assessed (A)	

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

Total non-compliances recorded	Total non-compliance score
0	0

How we use the non-compliance score to calculate your annual fee is explained in the 'Important Information' section below.

2. What action is required?

No action required.

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

The purpose of this visit was to attend the Community Liaison Panel meeting, to update Natural Resources Wales (NRW) on Solutia's progress with various actions resulting from recently submitted Schedule 5 Notifications and to introduce Luke Burton as the replacement site officer prior to Rebecca Green's retirement. The site was not inspected.

Invoicing - there has been an error in NRW's billing system which will result in Solutia being overcharged for their subsistence fee this year. NRW are aware of the mistake and the balance will be refunded in due course.

Corrosion under Insulation (CUI)

NRW are concerned about the possibility of CUI causing pipeline leaks and understand that this is only relevant in some manufacturing operations. There was a recent leak from the Dequest Amino plant which was due to CUI. The feasibility of monitoring pipe integrity without removing the lagging was discussed but seems to be impractical.

Solutia have already started to assess some pipelines to see whether insulation is necessary. The frequency of inspections and the amount of pipework inspected will be increased and insulation will be removed as part of the inspection.

Formaldehyde exceedances (CAR_NRW0044256)

After investigations, the emission limit value exceedances for formaldehyde emissions to water were found to be due to discrete events. Appropriate corrective measures have been taken. The level gauge has been replaced and put onto the preventative maintenance programme. A faulty valve has been replaced. Solutia would prefer a back-up system with a second valve and the feasibility is being investigated. The control system may be due for replacement.

Effluent Pipeline Failure

The failure of the effluent pipeline in November 2023 was discussed in some detail. The failure mechanism has been identified as graphitic corrosion, which would not be detected with the common non-destructive testing methods used to determine the integrity of a pipeline. Solutia are investigating alternative methods of in-situ detection.

Vegetation has been cleared for the first 0.8km after the pipe leaves the site. Emergency access routes are being checked and the emergency response procedure is being improved.

Various measures have been taken to reduce the stress on the pipeline, including smoothing the flow to avoid surges by monitoring pressure in the pipe. The pressure gauge is monitored in the control room. The flowrate is controlled by changing the pumping speed.

This incident will be discussed in greater detail in CAR_NRW0042994.

Emissions to Water

Solutia would like to remove the "cease discharge" limitation from their permit to help reduce stress

on the discharge pipeline in the long term.

NRW advised that they would first need to carry out an assessment of effluent toxicity and dispersion modelling for the discharge in the estuary. Once NRW receive these reports their request can be evaluated. If NRW agree to their request, Solutia will need to apply for a permit variation.

This was a long and productive meeting. NRW thank all the participants from Solutia for their frankness, time and hospitality.

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 of 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	Score
C1 Major	Potential to have a major, serious, persistent and/or extensive impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property	60
C2 Significant	Potential to have a significant impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property	31
C3 Minor	Potential to have a minor or minimal impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property	4
C4 No environmental impact	Non-compliance at a regulated site that cannot foreseeably have any impact on the environment, people and/or property	0.1

How we use assessment scores

The number and severity of non-compliances recorded in a year will affect your annual subsistence fee the following year. A non-compliance factor is added to your site's Operator

Performance Risk Appraisal (OPRA) score when we calculate your fee to reflect the additional resource we use to assess permit compliance.

If your assessment result in Section 1 is suspended, what does this mean?

In line with our guidance, we may suspend scores for up to six months to allow time for remedial action to be taken. Suspended scores will be re-instated if the action is not completed.

Full list of Industry compliance criteria (used in section 1 and 2):

1. Management

- IR1A – General management
- IR1B – Finance (only applicable to Landfill)
- IR1C – Energy efficiency
- IR1D - Efficient use of raw materials
- IR1E - Avoidance, recovery and disposal of wastes produced by the activities
- IR1F - Multiple operator installations

2. Operations

- IR2A – Permitted activities
- IR2B – The site
- IR2C – Operating techniques
- IR2D – Technical requirements
- IR2E – Improvement programme
- IR2F – Pre-operational conditions
- IR2G – Landfill engineering (only applicable to Landfill)
- IR2H – Waste acceptance (only applicable to Landfill)
- IR2I – Leachate levels (only applicable to Landfill)
- IR2J – Closure and aftercare (only applicable to Landfill)
- IR2K – Landfill gas management (only applicable to Landfill)

3. Emission and Monitoring

- IR3A – Emissions to water, air or land
- IR3B – Emissions of substances not controlled by emission limits
- IR3C – Odour
- IR3D – Noise and vibration
- IR3E – Monitoring
- IR3F – Pests
- IR3G – Air quality management plans
- IR3H – Monitoring for the purposes of the Industrial Emissions Directive (this heading includes Large Combustion Plants)
- IR3I – Fire

4. Information

- IR4A – Records
- IR4B – Reporting
- IR4C – Notification

Enforcement response

Any non-compliance with a permit condition 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 twenty 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 to 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.