

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0044763

Permit being assessed: AN0392101

For: Aberthaw Power Station, held by CCR Energy Limited

At: The Leys, Aberthaw, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 42W.

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

On 11/07/2024, between 10:00 and 11:00.

Parts of permit assessed: All

NRW Lead Officer: Harry Warburton, accompanied by: Alex Grabham.

Report sent to: Michael Greenway, Consultant, on 18/07/2024.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
WQ-B2 - Water Quality - Operations - The site	C4 No impact	4
WQ-B2 - Water Quality - Operations - The site	C4 No impact	6
WQ-D1 - Water Quality - Information - Records	C4 No impact	11a

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

2. What action is required?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
WQ-B2	Clear the vegetation around the designated sample point to allow for easy access for a representative sample to be taken	30/08/2024
WQ-B2	Identify, maintain and calibrate the flow monitor and see how to extract the flow data should it ever be requested by NRW, as per permit condition 6 and 11a.	27/09/2024
WQ-D1	Find the previous maintenance documents and keep a record of these and any future maintenance to the package plant	30/08/2024

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

On the 11th of July 2024 Natural Resources Wales Environment Officers Harry Warburton and Alex Graham attended Aberthaw power station to assess the conditions of permit AN0392101.

The site also has permit AN0392001, however this permit expired on 31/07/2009. This package plant is no longer used as it had serviced the old contractors compound. Due to this being no longer in use and if there are no plans to reuse it again in the future, then the permit can be surrendered, information on this can be found here:

[Natural Resources Wales / Surrendering \(giving up\) your permit for water discharges.](#)

If the permit gets surrendered then appropriate decommissioning of the package plant will be required.

It was also discussed that the current security checkpoint is serviced by a septic tank that is emptied by tanker. Please can this be confirmed and waste transfer notes be supplied to confirm appropriate emptying is taking place.

The onsite package plant was inspected, as well as the control panels nearby. The package plant was designed to service up to 1000 staff at the power station during its operation, however now it services anywhere between 90-150 depending on the day during decommissioning. This raised concerns as to whether the plant was receiving enough foul flow to allow for adequate breakdown by the host bacteria considering the plant is only receiving 10-15% of its designed flow.

Despite this the effluent at the final stage of the plant looked very clear and had no odour or visible solids carryover. This effluent is currently monitored by NRW and has not had any recent failures. Due to the above our concerns for this seem to be addressed.

It was mentioned that it is not known when the package plant was last serviced, the package plant will require servicing to ensure it is functioning correctly and the service receipts should be kept as per permit condition 11a.

In the permit condition 6 states there are flow monitors, the consultant on site was not aware of these or how to collect the data from them. To comply with the condition the flow monitors will have to be identified, maintained and calibrated so that the data can be extracted should it ever be requested.

The sample point for the package plant is located on the other side of the fence. The sample point appeared to be getting overgrown with vegetation, this will require cutting back and maintaining so any future samplers can get a representative sample.

Overall the package plant appeared in good order, however this will be confirmed with a service. There are a few points mentioned that require action, as outlined below. We appreciate the difficulty of taking over the maintenance of the permit and package plant fairly recently and having to discover many of these things if there wasn't much of a handover since the demolition began.

To summarise here are the actions we require:

- Consider the surrender of permit AN0392001 if it is no longer in use. If surrendered then

the package plant will have to be appropriately decommissioned.

- Confirm whether the security checkpoint is serviced by a septic tank and if it is tankered, if so provide recent waste transfer notes.
- Conduct a service of the package plant to ensure functionality and keep these records.
- Identify, maintain and calibrate the flow monitors and be able to extract and view the data.
- Cut back the vegetation around the sample point so that it can be easily sampled for a representative sample.

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.