

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0044731

Permit being assessed: BP0236603

For: CSO and EO at Knab Rock Sewage Pumping Station, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

At: Mumbles Road, Opposite Car Park, Knab Rock, Mumbles, Swansea, Swansea, SA3 4EN.

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

On 28/06/2024, between 09:15 and 10:15.

Parts of permit assessed: Operations, Emissions and Monitoring.

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

Report sent to: CARS@dwrcymru.com, CARS Mailbox, on 16/07/2024.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
WQ-B3 - Water Quality - Operations - Operating techniques	C3 Minor	2.3.2 For the discharge specified in table S3.3: (a) The discharge shall only occur when and only for as long as either: (i) the flow passed forward is equal to or greater than the overflow setting indicated due to rainfall and/or snow melt
WQ-B1 - Water Quality - Operations - Permitted activities	Action only (X)	
WQ-B3 - Water Quality - Operations - Operating techniques	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 provide us with a timeline for the work you intend to carry out to restore the FPF and a date for when you expect to come back into compliance with your permit.	30/08/2024
WQ-B1	Please confirm if the EDM return is reporting spills to the tidal storm tanks or spills to the environment from the tidal storm tanks.	30/08/2024
WQ-B3	Please can you locate the emergency overflow screen and report back to us on its condition.	27/09/2024

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.

You are non-compliant with your permit.

At this time, we are issuing you with a warning for the non-compliance recorded above. Warnings may influence future enforcement response for continued or further non-compliance.

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 28 June 2024 you accompanied us on an inspection of Knab Rock Sewage Pumping Station. The SPS collects flows from the southwestern section of Swansea Bay and pumps them forward to Langdon Road SPS ending at Swansea Bay Sewage Treatment Works for treatment.

It was dry during our visit, and except for some light rain the day before, it had been dry for several days.

The permit for Knab Rock SPS allows for a discharge of emergency and storm sewage as defined by the permit.

Storm

Knab Rock SPS is permitted to discharge storm sewage once the flow passed forward are equal to or greater than 189 l/s. The flows were measuring 45 l/s at the time of the visit so no discharge was occurring. The two 6mm x 6mm escalator storm screens were clean. We were informed that there were no issues with the screens and that they are on a regular maintenance plan. As required by condition 2.3.2(d) a telemetry alarm is installed to give notification of a screen failure.

You have informed us that the flows passed forward (FPF) are not being achieved before spills to the storm tanks and environment are occurring. This was identified as a result of an investigation, carried out by you, into the number of storm spills. I am recording this as a non-compliance with Condition 2.3.2 which requires that a discharge shall only occur when and only for as long as the flow passed forward is equal to or greater than the overflow setting indicated due to rainfall and/or snow melt.

This breach is in contravention of Regulation 38 (2) of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 which states that it is an offence for a person to fail to comply with or to contravene an environmental permit condition.

My understanding is that work was carried out at the beginning of AMP 6 (2016-17) to improve pump performance and prevent saline intrusion by replacing the tidal tank penstocks. Whilst this improved performance, further work is needed to ensure that the FPF is met and the number of storm spills is reduced. I understand that the work will start

with replacing all four pumps after which the performance will be assessed to establish if any pipe work needs to be replaced and/or reconfigured.

Action: Please provide us with a timeline for the work you intend to carry out to restore the FPF and a date for when you expect to come back into compliance with your permit.

There are 2 types of storm storage at Knab Rock SPS. One is the online storm storage which should equate to 1360m³. This storage should be fully utilised before storm effluent discharges to the second type of storage which is the tidal storm tanks. Any storm sewage remaining in the online storage at the end of a storm event is passed back to the continuation flow whereas any storm sewage which has entered the tidal tanks will be discharged to the environment.

The storm storage provision should be 1360m³ with 700m³ as a tank and 660m³ in the sewer. We were unable to inspect the condition of the storage tanks as they were not visible.

Whilst the size of the tidal storage tanks is not specified in the permit, there is a requirement for any discharges from the tidal storm tank to the environment to only occur between one hour after high water to five hours after high water. The EDM returns we have available to us from the 2023 suggest that a discharge is occurring outside of this time. It is not clear, however, which discharge is being measured and reported in the EDM returns. For example, I do not know whether the flows into the tidal tanks or out of the tidal tanks are being measured.

Action: Please confirm if the EDM return is reporting spills to the tidal storm tanks or spills to the environment from the tidal storm tanks.

The EDM reported data for 100% of the time in 2023 so appears to have been fully operational in that respect.

Emergency

There are 4 pumps at Langdon Road. Duty, assist, assist and standby. One of the pumps was not in place as it was waiting for a guide bar replacement. It was still available to be used if the need arose.

We were unable to locate the 10mm bar screen which should be in place to screen any emergency discharges. Not all areas of the SPS are readily accessible without specialist confined space training.

Action: Please can you locate the emergency overflow screen and report back to us on its condition.

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.