

## Compliance Assessment Report CAR\_NRW0045162

**Permit being assessed:** BB3006701

For: PENY BONT SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG  
At: PENY BONT SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS, OGMORE BY SEA, BRIDGEND CBC,  
WALES, .

**Type of assessment carried out:** Check Monitoring/Sampling, Reason: Incident Response  
(Incident number: 2411197).

On 11/09/2024.

Parts of permit assessed: works operation

**NRW Lead Officer:** Natalie Wrangham.

**Report sent to:** CARS@dwrwymru, mailbox, on 03/10/2024.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
WQ-A1 - Water Quality - Management - General management	Assessed (A)	

Result types are explained in more detail 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

#### **Incident Report**

Incident report 2411197 was reported to Natural Resources Wales Incident Communication Centre on 05/08/2024 by a member of the public. The report referenced a polluting discharge from Penybont Waste Water Treatment Works on the 1/08/2024 at 10.53pm. A video was submitted in support of this report. The video shows a cloudy grey discharge from the treatment works entering the river Ogmore. The extent of the visible pollution is

unknown.

The incident was investigated by an NRW Environment Officer when the report had been received. As the report was made a few days after the event, no evidentiary water quality samples could be taken, and the visible pollution had passed. NRW requested EDM spill data from DCWW for the storm tanks at the treatment works. EDM data shows that the storm tanks were not spilling at the time of the reported pollution. DCWW also confirmed there were no known issues at site around this date which could have led to the reported pollution.

### **Breach of condition**

Condition 17 of permit BB3006701 states:

*The works shall be operated and the effluent shall be treated in a manner which, so far as reasonably practicable, minimises the polluting effects of the discharge made from the works on controlled waters.*

The turbidity of the final effluent has the potential to impact on the efficacy of UV treatment and raises questions regarding the quality of the final effluent being discharged. This particular incident has occurred during the bathing water season. The bathing water downstream of the works (Ogmore by sea) is currently in poor condition.

### **Action**

- A full investigation as to the potential causes of this discharge and at what turbidity the efficacy of the UV treatment becomes compromised and the treated effluent become non-compliant.
- Proposed monitoring procedures to be put in place to ensure no repeat occurrence and that any problem in the treatment process during all hours can be detected and escalated.

Both actions to be completed by **31/10/2024**. If you wish to discuss the deadline please contact Officer Wrangham at [cwmtaf&bridgendconsultations@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk](mailto:cwmtaf&bridgendconsultations@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk)

### **Update 3/10/2024**

Information from the investigation requested in actions above was received on 30/09/2024 and is included below.

*From reviewing the event details and data, DCWW are of the opinion that there is no breach of permit condition and no impact to the watercourse during the time in question. Below is a summary of our findings:*

#### **1. Total Suspended Solids (TSS) Monitoring:**

- The TSS monitor, installed for 24-hour monitoring of the final effluent (FE), recorded a maximum solids level of 13.76 mg/L between 12am on 1st August and 12pm on 2nd August 2024. See attached document containing extract from PRISM showing readings.
- DCWW are of the opinion that the TSS monitor used to collate this data is an accurate

*representation of the TSS levels in final effluent discharge, as this instrument has undergone 3monthly verification since installation. Maintenance records confirm that this instrument was verified on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024 and 6<sup>th</sup> August 2024.*

*- At the time of the video recording (approximately 10:53pm on 1st August), the TSS reading was 6.73 mg/L, significantly below the permitted consent of 35 mg/L.*

### *2. Flow and Spill Data (EDM & FPF):*

*- During the timeframe referenced within the CAR form, the flow pass forward was measured a mean reading of 784l/s at 12am on 2nd August. The measurement was taken using a fixed MCerts flow meter. This flow meter has a robust maintenance regime to ensure that readings taken are accurate.*

*- Readings obtained from the EDM meter confirm that the storm tank spill level was at 0%.*

*- See attached document confirming the measurements listed above.*

### *3. UV Treatment and Transmissivity:*

*- Measurements taken from the instrumentation installed at the UV dose plant confirm that the UV dosage was 78 mJ/cm<sup>2</sup> and UV transmissivity of 78%. The data presented in the attached document confirms that the UV treatment was functioning effectively, and the dose rate was in accordance with permit requirements. The equipment used to take readings was verified in line with 3 monthly maintenance schedule (May and August 2024).*

NRW are satisfied that DCWW have appropriate monitoring in place and that the monitoring data detailed by DCWW show that the discharge was within permitted parameters at the time the discharge was witnessed.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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.