Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0045871

Permit being assessed: AD0000901
For: Trecastle Wastewater Treatment Works, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG
At: Trecastle, Brecon, Powys, LD3 8UG.

Type of assessment carried out: Site Inspection, Reason: Routine.
On 13/12/2024, between 10:11 and 10:37.
Parts of permit assessed: See Criteria Below

NRW Lead Officer: Robert Harding.
Report sent to: CARS Mailbox, CARS Mailbox, on 20/12/2024.

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)	
WQ-B1 - Water Quality - Operations - Permitted activities	Assessed (A)	
WQ-B2 - Water Quality - Operations - The site	Assessed (A)	
WQ-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	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

This was a pre-planned OSM site inspection carried out by Natural Resources Wales Officer Robert Harding. I was shown around the site by the following DCWW representatives.
MH- Operational Supervisor
RS – Process Science Technician

The weather during the visit was overcast with intermittent showers. I was shown through the works from inlet through to the outfall.

General Observations

The STW is a filter works with a storm discharge consent. The works received a new consolidated permit which came into effect on 03/01/2024, bringing together the STW and Storm discharges, as well as bringing into effect further water quality emissions limits. It is unmanned and has telemetry in place for monitoring.

Inlet and Storm

The incoming flow comes into the works via a gravity sewer. The works is a powered works however does not have a backup power source in place. The incoming flows to the works pass through a mechanical screen within the inlet unit. The screen clearly operation at the time of visit, and there were no signs of significant rag or solids passing through to the next stage of treatment. There is an additional bypass channel with a fixed 6mm bar screen, which can be used when undertaking screen maintenance.

The storm weir in place is a hard-set weir at the side of the inlet, following the inlet screen and bypass channel. The flow can only pass to storm when flows reach the level of the weir. The storm channel has no additional screening in place, as all flows pass through the mechanical screen or bar screen beforehand. The incoming flows were well below the weir height, and no storm discharge was occurring. There was some water present within the channel, suggesting a recent discharge. There is Event Duration Monitoring level sensor in place to monitor storm discharges (to storm tanks).

In the channel following the inlet to the primary tanks, there are two pipes which are in place. The green pipe I was advised was the de-sludge pipe from the lamellar unit. This is discharged into the primary settlement before the primary tanks are de-sludged. The second pipe is from a blank tank near the inlet, which is a humus return tank, which is used to maintain flows through the works during drier spells.

Primary Settlement

There are two primary settlement tanks at the works are rectangular brick housed tanks with retention boards in place to hold back solids. The primary settlement tanks appeared to be operating effectively and there were no signs excessive carry over in the outfall channels of the tanks.

The joint outfalls from the primary settlement tanks lead to a syphon chamber, which fills ups before discharging to the two filter beds on site. This is to ensure there is enough water pressure to rotate the filter bed arms. The syphon was clearly operational at the time of the inspection.

Filter Beds

The works contains a two filter beds of stone media. The rotation arms were moving freely when discharging. There were no signs of blocked outlets, and the rotating arms appeared to be distributing effectively. The filter beds had some coverage of moss growth on the surface of the filter., however this was not excessive.

Both filter beds had areas of pooling on the surface of the filter bed, each tank had one area of more significant pooling. There had been significant rainfall in the days preceding this inspection, which may have contributed to this pooling. This this should be monitored and managed to ensure the pooling does not prevent the flows receiving sufficient filtration. There were some areas where there was rag present on the surface of the filter bed, these appeared localised to the end of the filtration arms, potentially from where blockages had been cleared.

Aside from the pooling present, the filter beds at the works appeared to be operating effectively and the outfall channel appeared to be running clear.

Humus Tanks

The final settlement tanks on the works are two small rectangular tanks with retention boards to slow the flow down and prevent solids passing over. The final settlement system appeared to be operating effectively. The outfall channel tank appeared clear and free flowing with no signs of significant solids passing through or sewage fungus growth.

Tertiary Treatment

There is currently a lamellar filter unit in operation at the works, to provide additional treatment to the effluent. This passed the flows through a series of angled screens, allowing additional surface area for bacterial breakdown. This is currently in place on a trial basis. The flows to the lamella unit are taken from the inlet of the humus tank, once treated the flows are then returned to the outfall channel of the humus tank. The lamellar unit was not inspected on this occasion, as it is providing additional treatment on a trial basis.

Outfall and Sampling point.

The Final effluent sampling point was clearly marked and easily accessed. There is a raised outlet at the top of the pipe with a v notch to allow a representative sample to be easily collected. The chamber appeared clear, and effluent was flowing freely. There were no signs of solids within the effluent.

There is an MCERTs flow meter in operations at the works, which was clearly operation at the time of inspections.

The outfall on the works discharges via an outfall pipe into Nant Logyn. The pipe is slightly set back from the main channel of the watercourse; however, this did not appear to be causing any issues with effluent mixing within the watercourse. There were no signs of contamination or discolouration to the receiving watercourse and no signs of sewage fungus around the outfall.

Strom Tank and Storm Outfall
The storm tank on site is located next to the two primary settlement tanks. It is a brick built open rectangular tank. At the time of inspection, the storm tank was completely full and just below the level where the storm tanks would discharge. The storm tank when filled is pumped back to the head of the works on a set timer. There is an EMD level sensor in place present within the storm tank (storm to environment)

The storm tanks lead to a reed bed before being discharged to the receiving watercourse. The storm outfall is located slightly upstream from the works outfall and has a brick housing. The storm outfall was discharging at the time of inspection and there were no signs of any discolouration or fungus growth around the outfall.

*** Advisory Note ****
At the time of inspection there it was evident that the reed bed on site had recently flooded and spilled out of its housing. The excess water had travelled over land within the works compound and had flowed into the final effluent channel. As a result of the flooding, the discharge from the storm reed bed has been made via the works outfall (and partially over land) and therefore not via the designated storm channel. This would usually be considered a noncompliance against permit conditions. I am satisfied at this time that this was because of heavy rainfall and surface flooding at the location. It is likely this occurred as a result of named storm Darragh, which resulted in significant surface water flooding within the area. As such I do not feel it would be appropriate to record this as a noncompliance against the permitted conditions. As there were no signs of negative impact on the receiving environment and the watercourse appeared clear at the time of inspection.

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.