

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0046089

Permit being assessed: AP3139FT.

For: Five Fords WWTW Gas to Grid Facility, **held by:** Dwr Cymru Welsh Water

At: Cefn Rd, Marchwell, Wrexham, Wrexham, LL13 0PA.

Type of assessment: Site Inspection,

Reason: Routine.

On: 28/01/2025 between 10:30 and 12:00.

Parts of permit assessed: See Below.

NRW Lead Officer: Philip Harper, accompanied by Jamie Blythin.

Report sent to: Head of Energy, Head of Energy, on 04/02/2025.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (compliance criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
IR3A(3) - Installations - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to land	C3 Minor	3.1.1
IR1A - Installations - Management - General Management	C3 Minor	1.1.1.
IR2C - Installations - Operations - Operating techniques	Assessed (A)	
IR1A - Installations - Management - General Management	Assessed (A)	

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

Total non-compliances recorded	Total non-compliance score
2	8

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?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
IR3A(3)	See actions in main text.	28/02/2025
IR1A	See Action in main text,	28/02/2025

Compliance 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

At 10:30 on the 28th January 2025 an announced site inspection was undertaken at Five Fords Gas to Grid Facility by NRW officers Phil Harper and Jamie Blythin, Senior Industry and Waste Regulation.

General Site Observations

A general site walk round was undertaken. The sludge storage area was empty at the time of the inspection, but contained water following wet weather.

A speed bump was installed at the bottom of the access road for the sludge storage area following a site inspection on 24th June 2022. However, it was noted that no link to drainage has been installed and that water was flowing over the speedbump to unmade ground. Water from within the installation boundary has the potential to be contaminated with polluting materials.

NRW has taken the view that this is a point source emission to land in contravention of permit condition 3.1.1. "There shall be no point source emissions to water, air or land except from the sources and emission points listed in schedule 3 tables S3.1, S3.2 and S3.3".

A category 3 score has been applied under subheading IR3A(3)

It is the responsibility of the operator to ensure that robust site checks are carried out to ensure that the site infrastructure is providing containment as planned and to make improvements where necessary.

Failure to identify that water was spilling over the speedbump and to improve drainage is viewed as a management failure and a breach under permit condition 1.1.1.

A category 3 score has been applied under subheading IR1A

Action 1: Provide a plan with timeframes for the improvement of drainage at the speed bump adjacent

to the sludge storage area by the 28th February 2025.

Action 2: Perform a review of the sites environmental management system to ensure that the sections of management system which are relevant site checks and improvements are adequate by the 28th February 2025.

Site Management Documents

A review of management documentation was undertaken during the inspection. Documents concerning the management of the site accordance with the permitted operating techniques were available for review by officers.

All documents were present with recent documented amendments made.

No issues were identified.

Kind Regards

Phil Harper

Senior Industry and Waste Regulation Officer NE

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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.