

Malcolm Dines
Natural Resources Wales
Plas Gwendraeth
Cross Hands Business Park
Camarthenshire
SA14 6RE

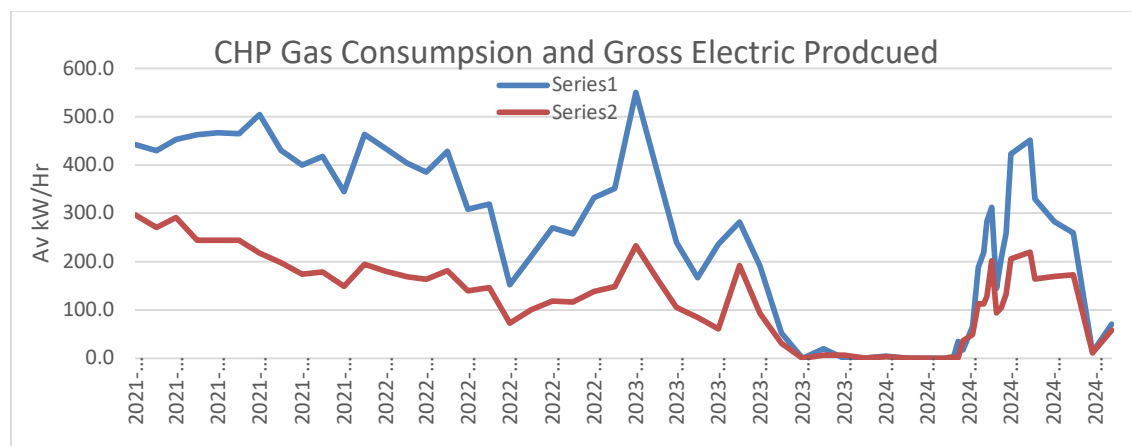
Date: 22st August 2025

Ref: Derwent Renewable power Mechanical Failure of Digester inner Wall

Dear Mr Dines

Further to your correspondence with Malcolm Hughes relating to the failure of the Digester inner wall in November 2024 please see the following:

During the course of 2023 there had been an issue with the Gas mixing and the heating in the digester. As a result plant performance and with it commensurate gas production was severely affected.



At the end of Q2 2024 after repairs to the gas mixing and heating circuits the Digester was reheated and brought back on line.

Initial results were encouraging and gas and engine production appeared to be recovering well. However in early October operational issues with the CHP Gas engine were becoming apparent and close inspection of the digester revealed a floating layer had appeared part way around the digester outer tank.

Feed volumes amended and gas mixing intensity increased to aid the breakup of the floating layer.

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Newchurch Farm
Kinnersley Hereford HR3 6QQ
T: 01544 322 230

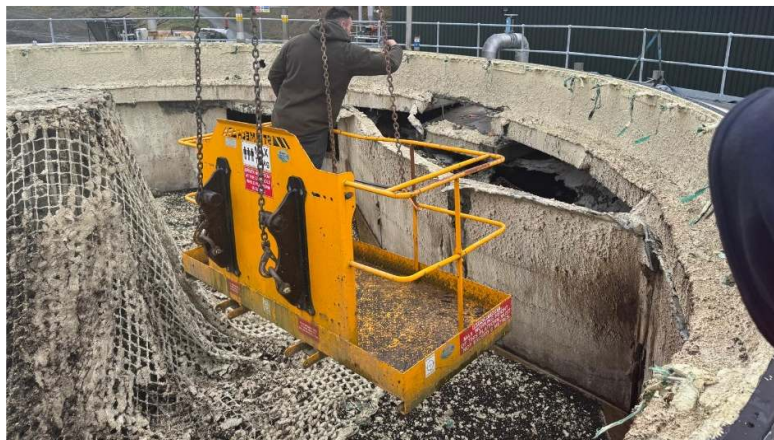
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On 30th November during afternoon checks of the Digester roof was discovered to have moved as per the below photograph. Feeding was immediately stopped and the NFU insurers were immediately notified.



The NFU loss adjusters attended site on 5th December to make an initial assessment of the plant. All agree the outer tank and integrity of the main tank appeared to be unaffected.

On 13th December, having checked residual gas levels were at a safe level contractors removed the Double membrane to facilitate a better understanding of the mode of failure.



This confirmed the inner wall had moved causing the initial movement of the 1 roof panel. In agreement with the appointed engineers (Hawkins Forensic Investigation) it was agreed

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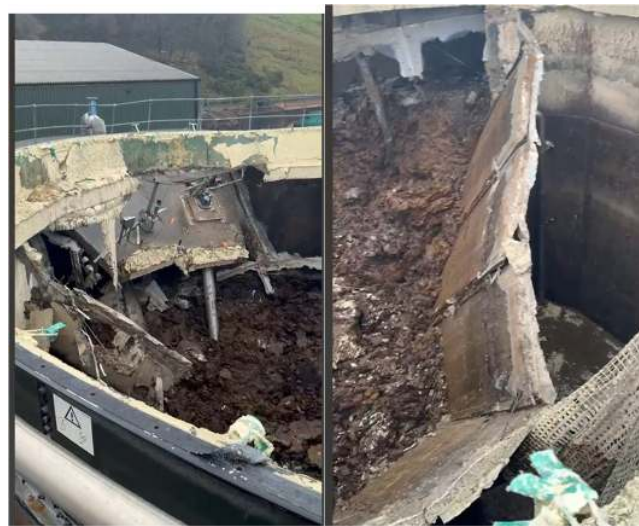
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to pump digestate out of the tank into the bulk holding tank to incrementally lower the levels in the digester. On the 19th December pumping was stopped due to further movement of the internal wall.



On 20 December with all free liquid removed digestate pumping resumed and significant additional movement of the inner wall occurred



At this stage it was agreed that all further works could only be progressed by means of aerial working and a specialist salvage contractor was employed to lift off the remain roof sections and then, by means of a crane mounted grab remove all remaining solids from the digester.

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This work was done by Cadman Cranes Ltd. After 3 weeks lifting it was concluded that the risk of the remaining inner wall sections falling was too high and Wye valley Demolition were contracted in with a high reach excavator and 'nibbler' to crush all remaining concrete and solids to a safe level to eliminate risk to personnel and equally eliminate risk to the outer tank.

Once this was done further grab work removed the remaining solids and liquid to get the tank to a point where by it could be cleaned and inspected by AConsult who originally manufactured the tank.

This completed it was agreed by AConsult the outer tank was not damaged.

As of the end of August the Inner tank has been rebuilt and the roof replaced and resealed by the original suppliers.



It is intended to restart the Digester, using Marches Biogas, at the end of September 2025.

If there are any questions, please do come back to me.

Kind regards



Tom Corbett
Hillgreen Energy

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