

Compliance Assessment Report

Report ID:
CAR_NRW0035767

This form will report compliance with your permit as determined by an NRW officer

Site	CARDIGAN WWTW(STW) CARDIGAN		Permit Ref	BH0074101		
Operator/Permit holder	DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG					
Regime	WaterQuality					
Date of assessment	23/08/2019	Time in	10:00	Out	12:00	
Assessment type	Audit					
Parts of the permit assessed	All					
Lead officer's name	Stone, Callum					
Accompanied by	Goddard, Jeremy					
Recipient's name/position	OSM Mailbox/ OSM Mailbox		Date issued	22/11/2019		

Section 1 – Compliance Assessment Summary

This is based on the requirements of the permit under the Environmental Permitting Regulations or the licence under the Water Resources Act 1991 as amended by the Water Act 2003. A detailed explanation is captured in "Compliance Assessment Report Detail" (Section 2) and any actions you may need to take are given in the "Action(s)" (section 4). This summary details where we believe any non-compliance with the permit has occurred, the relevant condition and how the non-compliance has been categorised using our Compliance Classification Scheme (CCS). CCS Scores can be consolidated or suspended where appropriate, to reflect the impact of some non-compliances more accurately. For more details of our CCS scheme, contact your local office.

Permit conditions and compliance summary	CCS Category	Condition(s) breached
A1 - Specified by permit	C2	(1) The discharge shall consist solely of secondary treated sewage effluent, which has been disinfected at all times by passage through membrane filters.

KEY: See Section 5 for breach categories, suspended scores will be indicated as such.

A = Assessed or assessed in part (no evidence of non-compliance), **X** = Action only,

O = Ongoing non-compliance, not scored.

Number of breaches recorded	1	Total compliance score (see section 5 for scoring scheme)	31
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If the Number of breaches recorded is greater than zero, please see Section 3 for our proposed enforcement response

Section 2 – Compliance Assessment Report Detail

This section contains a report of our findings and will usually include information on:

- The part(s) of the permit that were assessed (eg. Maintenance, training, combustion plant, etc)
- Where the type of assessment was 'Data Review' details of the report/results triggering the assessment
- Any non-compliances identified
- Any non-compliances with directly applicable legislation
- Details of any multiple non-compliances
- Information on the compliance score accrued inc.
- Details of advice given
- Any other areas of concern
- Any actions requested
- Any examples of good practice
- A reference to photos taken

Background: Since July 2015 NRW and Dwr Cymru Welsh Water have been aware of issues at Cardigan where saline intrusion in to the network is presenting a significant risk of damage to the MBRs of Cardigan Sewage Treatment Works (Permits BH0074101 and BP0275401) which will compromise the ability of the asset to treat sewage. To prevent damage to the asset, when the salinity of the incoming flows is deemed to be too high, untreated sewage is diverted to storm tanks until there is enough of a reduction in salinity of the incoming flows to allow the stored sewage to be passed through the works. The use of storm tanks for this purpose is a breach of permit BP0275401.

The loss of storm capacity has resulted in the works discharging untreated sewage in to the Teifi SAC and SSSI in breach of its permit (BH0074101). NRW acknowledges that due to the presence of high volumes of infiltrated water, it is likely that any damage to the environment is limited, however this discharge is still a breach of permit condition (1) which states "*The discharge shall consist solely of secondary treated sewage effluent, which has been disinfected at all times by passage through membrane filters.*" and this operation demonstrates that there is a clear and present risk to the capacity of the works to treat sewage, which may lead to greater damage to the environment.

A further concern is that there is currently no system in place for Event Duration Monitoring which meets the required standards. DCWW have indicated that this should be rectified by November 2019 therefore we would like confirmation of this. Despite this, indicative figures were provided by DCWW which show that between 01/01/2016 and 21/10/2019 the estimated total spill duration was 190,320 minutes, or 3,172 hours.

Works have been undertaken by DCWW to attempt to reduce the level of saline infiltration in to the network to some limited success, however this has not rectified the problem. I recommend that we meet on the 19th of December to discuss the outcome of this Compliance Assessment Report and how to proceed.

EPR Compliance Assessment Report

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Section 3 – Enforcement Response

You must take immediate action to rectify any non-compliance and prevent repetition. Non-compliance with your permit conditions constitutes an offence and can result in criminal prosecutions and/or suspension or revocation of a permit. Please read the detailed assessment in Section 2 and the steps you need to take in Section 4 below.

We will now consider what enforcement action is appropriate and notify you, referencing this form.

Section 4 – Action(s)

This section summarises the actions identified during the assessment along with the timescales for when they will need to be completed.

Criteria Ref.	CCS Category	Action required/advised	Due Date
See Section 1 above			
A1	C2	Provide NRW with a plan of works to be undertaken in an agreed timescale to prevent the discharge of untreated sewage as a result of the works shutting down from high chloride levels.	15/05/2020

Section 5 – Compliance notes for the Operator

To ensure you correct actual or potential non-compliance we may

- Advise on corrective actions verbally or in writing
- Require you to take specific actions verbally or in writing
- Issue a notice
- Require you to review your procedures or management system
- Change some of the conditions of your permit
- Decide to undertake a full review of your permit

Any breach of a permit condition is an offence and we may take legal action against you

- We will normally provide advice and guidance to assist you to come back into compliance either after an offence is committed or where we consider that an offence is likely to be committed. This is without prejudice to any other enforcement response that we consider may be required.
- Enforcement action can include the issue of a formal caution, prosecution, the service of a notice and/or suspension or revocation of the permit.

See our Enforcement and Civil Sanctions guidance for further information

This report does not relieve the site operator of the responsibility to

- Ensure you comply with the conditions of the permit at all times and prevent pollution of the environment
- Ensure you comply with other legislative provisions which may apply

Non-compliance scores and categories

CCS category	Description	Score
C1	A non-compliance that could have a major environmental effect	60
C2	A non-compliance which could have a significant environmental effect	31
C3	A non-compliance which could have a minor environmental effect	4
C4	A non-compliance which has no potential environmental effect	0.1

Operational Risk Appraisal (Opra) - Compliance assessment findings may affect your Opra score and/or your charges. This score influences the resource we use to assess permit compliance.

Section 6 – General information

Data protection notice

The information on this form will be processed by the Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to fulfil its regulatory and monitoring functions and to maintain the relevant public register(s). The NRW may also use and/or disclose it in connection with:

- Offering/providing you with its literature/services relating to environmental matters
- Consulting with the public, public bodies and other organisations (eg. 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 its service
- Freedom of Information Act/Environmental Regulations request

The NRW may pass it on to its agents/representatives to do these things on its behalf. You should ensure that any persons named on this form are informed of the contents of this data protection notice.

Disclosure of information

The NRW will provide a copy of this report to the public register(s). However, if you consider that any information contained in this report should not be released to the public register(s) on the grounds of commercial confidentiality, you must write to your local area office within fifteen working days of receipt of this form indicating which information it concerns and why it should not be released, giving your reasons in full.

Customer charter

What can I do if I disagree with this compliance assessment report?

If you are unable to resolve the issue with your site officer, you should firstly discuss the matter with officer's line managers using the informal appeals procedure. If you wish to raise your dispute further through our official Complaints and Commendations procedure, phone our general enquiry number 0300 065 3000 (Mon to Fri 08.00 – 18.00) and ask for the Customer Contact team or send an email to enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk. If you are still dissatisfied you can make a complaint to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales. For advice on how to complain to the Ombudsman phone their helpline on 0845 607 0987.

Welsh Language

If you would like this form in Welsh please contact your Regulatory Officer.