

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0037145

Permit being assessed: DP3137EG.

For: Margam Green Energy Plant EPR/DP3137EG, held by Margam Green Energy Ltd
At: Margam Green Energy Plant Land off Longlands Lane , Neath Port Talbot, SA13 2NR.

Type of assessment carried out: Check Monitoring/Sampling, Reason: Routine.
On 17/11/2020.

Parts of permit assessed: Monitoring Returns Residue

NRW Lead Officer: Ieuan Davies.

Report sent to: Mark Bull, EHS Manager on 18/11/2020.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
E5 - Emissions - Waste	C3 Minor (Suspended)	3.5.1
G3 - Monitoring and Records, Maintenance and Reporting - Maintenance records	Assessed (A)	
G1 - Monitoring and Records, Maintenance and Reporting - Monitoring of emissions and environment	Assessed (A)	

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

Total number of non-compliances recorded	Total non-compliance score
1	0

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
E5	Improve Operations	30/11/2021

Action 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

Residue Quality Reports September 2020

Margam Green Energy Limited are required to submit residue quality reports in accordance with section 3.5.1 of its environmental permit.

Condition 3.5.1

The operator shall, unless otherwise agreed in writing by Natural Resources Wales, undertake the monitoring specified in the following tables in schedule 3 to this permit:

(a) point source emissions specified in tables S3.1, S3.2, S3.3

(b) process monitoring specified in table S3.4

(c) residue quality in table S3.5

Margam Green Energy Limited's environmental permit (DP3137EG) states within table 3.5 *Residue Quality* that Total Organic Carbon within its Incinerator Bottom Ash should not exceed the 3% emission limit. Margam Green Energy Limited (MGEL) continue to occasionally breach their permitted limit for Total Organic Carbon (TOC) with historic breaches found within Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0036890A.

MGEL within a Schedule 5 form submitted on the 3rd of November 2020 stated that they had recorded a TOC figure of 3.8% in September 2020. High levels of TOC in bottom ash is often influenced by the residence time of the material being processed and moisture content of the waste feed – but generally comes down to combustion control. The limit of less than 3% is to ensure efficacy of incineration taking into account residence times, moisture content and combustion control. However this particular breach could be as a result of explosive online cleaning which is used on the plant to remove a build-up of combustion fouling, preventing heat transfer.

Action

There are a number of possible root causes briefly discussed above that may indicate contributing factors of high TOC levels. To address, the Operator has stated, the plant would benefit from fine tuning it's combustion trimming control system which is currently being undertaken at site level but will benefit from the manufacturers intervention who are based in Denmark. This would require considerable investment which has currently stalled due to the manufacturer's location and the ongoing pandemic. The inspector would seek confirmation of the intervention timeline.

Margam Green Energy Limited have historically suffered multiple shutdowns in part due to a number of factors e.g feedstock availability, oversized material within feedstock which in turn damaged conveyor chains, issues with fire detection system. It's vitally important that MGEL maintain stable tonnage of incoming feedstock whilst auditing, sampling and monitoring to improve the quality of received waste wood.

The Inspector would seek an assessment on subsequent TOC analysis to gauge effectiveness of the measures outlined within MGEL Schedule 5 notification correspondence dated 9th November 2020.

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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.

What are suspended scores?

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 and Waste action criteria (used in section 1 and 2):

A: Permitted activities

- A1 Specified by permit

B: Infrastructure

- B1 Infrastructure – Engineering for prevention and control of emissions
- B2 Infrastructure – Closure and decommissioning
- B3 Infrastructure – Site drainage engineering (clean and foul)
- B4 Infrastructure – Containment of stored materials
- B5 Infrastructure – Plant and equipment

C: General management

- C1 General management – Staff competency/training
- C2 General management – Management system and operating procedures
- C3 General management – Materials acceptance
- C4 General management – Storage, handling, labelling and segregation

D: Incident management

- D1 Incident management – Site security
- D2 Incident management – Accidents, emergency and incident planning

E: Emissions

- E1 Emissions – Air
- E2 Emissions – Land and groundwater
- E3 Emissions – Surface water
- E4 Emissions – Sewer
- E5 Emissions – Waste

F: Amenity

- F1 Amenity – Odour
- F2 Amenity – Noise
- F3 Amenity – Dust/fibres/particulates and litter
- F4 Amenity – Pests/birds and scavengers
- F5 Amenity – Deposits on road

G: Monitoring and records, maintenance and reporting

- G1 Monitoring and records, maintenance and reporting – Monitoring of emissions and environment
- G2 Monitoring and records, maintenance and reporting – Records of activity, site diary/journal/events
- G3 Monitoring and records, maintenance and reporting – Maintenance records
- G4 Monitoring and records, maintenance and reporting – Reporting and notification to Natural Resources Wales

H: Resources efficiency

- H1 Resource efficiency – Efficient use of raw materials
- H2 Resource efficiency – Energy efficiency

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.