

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0038593

Permit being assessed: BL1096IB.

For: Padeswood Cement Works , held by Castle Cement Limited

At: PADESWOOD WORKS , PADESWOOD, MOLD, MOLD, CLWYD, CH7 4HB.

Type of assessment carried out: Site Inspection, Reason: Incident Response (Incident number 2105138).

On 18/06/2021 between 10:15 and 12:20.

Parts of permit assessed: See report

NRW Lead Officer: Lara Cubley.

Report sent to: David Quick, Plant Manager on 09/08/2021.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
E1 - Emissions - Air	C3 Minor	3.1.1
A1 - Specified by permit	C3 Minor	2.3.1(a)
D2 - Incident Management - Accidents, emergency and incident planning	C3 Minor	1.1.1
E1 - Emissions - Air	Action only (X)	
E3 - Emissions - Surface water	Action only (X)	

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

Total number of non-compliances recorded	Total non-compliance score
3	12

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
E1	see Action 5	31/08/2021
A1	see Action 1 & 2	31/12/2021
D2	see Action 3 & 4	31/10/2021
E1	see Action 6	31/08/2021
E3	see Action 7	10/12/2021

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

NRW visited the site on 18/06/21 in response to a fire that had occurred on the 15/06/2021 (09:35hrs) in the SRF dosing/feed building. During the inspection a visible dust emission was noted from Cement Mill 3.

SRF Fire

The fire was notified to NRW as per permit requirements. At the time of the fire the Kiln was not producing.

The site reports that the fire was discovered early, and the alarm raised. The fire service attended and promptly extinguished the fire. From inspection of the SRF dosing/feed building the fire appeared to have been very localised. Work was already underway to dismantle some of the plant. A new motor had already been fitted (**see photo 1**) at the site of the fire (below the dis-agglomerator and above the hopper).

NRW are of the opinion that this is a breach of Permit Condition 3.1.1 (E1 Emissions to Air – CCS3) unauthorised emissions to air from fire. Minor, localised and very short-lived impact on air quality. **See Actions later in report text.**

Following the inspection, a review of Permit Variation V012 (SRF system installed in 2015) noted that the '*SRF docking station and handling plant will be equipped with water spray suppression system*'. The Operator confirmed there was no such system installed on the plant.

NRW are of the opinion that this is a breach of Permit Condition 2.3.1(a) Table S1.2 (A1 Specified by Permit – CCS3).

ACTION 1: The Operator must review fire risk and accident management plans and the requirement for automated fire suppression system specifically for the SRF system. Provide a summary of findings in writing to NRW by 31/10/21, together with updated risk assessments & plans and any recommended actions with improvements with timescales.

ACTION 2: The Operator must review other items of plant & equipment at the installation to ensure fire suppression systems have been installed where planned and report findings with any required actions in writing to NRW by 31/12/21.

ADVICE & GUIDANCE

Liaising with the Fire & Rescue Service is recommended as part of your review of risk assessments & accident management plans.

Fire Water Run-Off

The inspection involved reviewing the fire water run-off and Site Emergency Response Plan

(UKCP09.F1). With respect to the fire water run-off, it was noted that water ran down site roads into the drainage system. Once in the drainage system the fire run-off would be discharged to the site lagoon via interceptors. As a result of advice from NRW during the incident the valve at the interceptor outfall to the lagoon was closed to help contain any fire water run-off. Fire water run-off was then removed from the interceptor and drainage system for off-site disposal.

It is unknown how much fire water entered the lagoon prior to the interceptor valve being closed. The lagoon then discharges to the watercourse, but it is noted that the penstock valve was closed to prevent discharge off site as a result of the fire. The Lagoon was inspected, and no obvious olfactory or visual signs of contamination were noted. **ADVICE & GUIDANCE:** It is advisable to test the lagoon water quality prior to re-opening the penstock valve and allowing discharge to the watercourse.

It was noted that site roads the fire water ran down did not have kerbing. This meant that there is potential for run-off to enter areas of soft ground which could cause contamination of adjacent areas of soft ground (**see photo 2**).

ADVICE & GUIDANCE: The Operator is advised to assess these risks and take appropriate action. When it comes to permit surrender the Operator will be liable for any clean up in contamination of land which has occurred during the life of the permitted activity.

Site Emergency Response Plan (UKCP09.F1)

The Site Emergency Response Plan (UKCP09.F1) was reviewed. The file name includes 2020 Rev1 but nowhere else in the document could you tell the version, version history or date of last review.

The document requires updating not least because NRW is not listed as an emergency contact. There are references to the Environment Agency and their Hotline number plus 'Disposal Instruction'. NRW was formed in 2013 and our incident line number is 03000 653000.

The Site Emergency Response Plan also makes reference to '*water spray fire protection (automated system)*' under '*Padeswood Cement – site hazards*' as a control for SRF & Profuel. For '*Emergency Materials*' only '*Fire suppression*' is listed and this refers to Section 5? Despite this, a fire event scenario and associated fire water run-off is not referred to in this Site Emergency Response Plan. There is a section entitled '*Contamination of Water Systems*' which suggests closing the lagoon outflow. Where it is possible to contain any contaminated run-off further up the drainage system, i.e. interceptor, this is advisable. This would minimise the potential for contaminating the entire lagoon.

NRW is of the opinion this is a breach of Permit Condition 1.1.1 (D2 Accident, Emergency & Incident Planning - CCS3).

ACTION 3: Ensure the document is subject of appropriate document control procedures to include version control, history and dates.

ACTION 4: Revise emergency procedures ensuring contact details are up-to-date and with due regard to advice & guidance below and reference to NRW 'How to comply with your environmental permit' guidance (see section 'Accidents & Incidents' page 22). Submit a summary of the review to NRW in writing together with updated plans and procedures by 31/10/21.

ADVICE & GUIDANCE:

Accident Management Plans should:

- Identify potential accident events such as fires and put measures in place to minimise them happening and steps needed to minimise any impacts if they do happen.
- Consider emergency kits/materials such as drain blocks/spill kits, plans of stock & location.
- Consider planning drills/exercises to test your plan.
- Consider when to reviewed and amended, i.e. annual, significant change or following a significant accident.

The Operator reported that an investigation had commenced into the cause of the fire.

ACTION 5: Operator to provide Part B to Notification with a summary of the incident investigation findings, measures to prevent recurrence and rectify/limit pollution/emissions by 31/08/21.

Mill 3 Dust Emission

Whilst entering site at 10:30hrs visible dust was noted from emission point A5 Cement Mill 3 (**see video 3**). The Shift Manager confirmed that the mill had stopped at 09:53 because the feed hopper had run out of clinker. Dust monitoring data reviewed (**photo 4**) showed elevated concentrations looking to reach a maximum level of 52 just after 10:00hrs for approximately half an hour (units of measurement to be confirmed?). The Operator reported that the bags had just been changed on the filter and that emissions were very low. This appeared to be the case prior to 10:00hrs.

E1 – Emissions to air ACTION 6: The Operator is to investigate and report back findings together with data on the status of the plant together with any suggested actions in writing to NRW by 31/08/21.

Coal Shed – Surface Water Drainage

It was noted that the drainage channel around the coal shed which takes surface water run-off from the area was full of coal fines. It would appear that this trench then drains to the Black Brook. The permit does not currently have a permitted emission point in this location and we are concerned about the potential for pollution of this watercourse.

E3 – Emissions to Water ACTION 7: The Operator must undertake an investigation and provide a description of the mechanisms and pathway from this trench to the Black Brook together with plans and the location of the emission point. The Operator must also provide a risk assessment that assesses the source term of the coal contaminated run-off water with the likely emission rates and impact on the Black Brook. Please provide a report in writing to NRW by 10/12/21.

ADVICE & GUIDANCE: You should follow this guidance for surface water pollution risk assessment <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/surface-water-pollution-risk-assessment-for-your-environmental-permit> .

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.