

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0038728

Permit being assessed: AB3090CC.

For: Argoed Farm AD Facility, held by Derwent Renewable Power Ltd

At: Argoed, Trefeglwys, Caersws, Powys, SY17 5QT.

Type of assessment carried out: Site Inspection, Reason: Incident Response (Incident number 2107539).

On 14/09/2021.

Parts of permit assessed: General Management, Infrastructure

NRW Lead Officer: Liz Park.

Report sent to: Roger Hughes, Operator on 15/09/2021.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
E3 - Emissions - Surface water	C3 Minor	3.2.1
C2 - General Management - Management system and operating procedures	C3 Minor	1.1.1

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

Total number of 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
E3	Put procedures in place to ensure that digestate does not enter the surface water drainage system	28/09/2021
C2	Review and update all management system document and provide electronic copies to NRW	01/10/2021

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

On 8 September 2021, Natural Resources Wales received an incident report regarding grey black pollution in a watercourse in the vicinity of Argoed Farm AD Plant. The incident was attended by Alastair Wilson, an Environment Officer. He confirmed that there was polluting matter in the watercourse coming out from a headwall that serves Argoed Farm.

Further investigation was undertaken by Roger Hughes. He informed Alastair of the following by telephone:

The gearbox on the separator broke several weeks ago, but spares from Italy are being difficult to source, so the digestate with 10% DM (Dry Matter) has been going into the sump which is pumped into the concrete holding tank. Because of the extra pressure on the sump pump (due to the DM) it has blocked, and the sump overflowed and entered a clean surface water drain and made it's way to the watercourse.

Mr Hughes took three tankers of water/sludge out of the ditch. He has also cleaned out and flushed through the sump etc so that lot should be clear as well now. He will keep a closer eye on it to make sure it doesn't overflow again, and is ordering 2 sets of spares so that they have contingency.

E3 - Surface water emission - Permit condition 3.2.1 - CCS Cat 3

You have been breached this condition because effluent, namely digestate, was allowed to enter the surface water drainage system. Effluent in the liquid digestate sump cannot be allowed to accidentally enter the surface water system.

Systems/ infrastructure must be in place to ensure that this cannot happen in the event of a pump failure under any circumstances.

C2 - Management System - Permit condition 1.1.1 - CCS Cat 3

You have been breached this condition because there were not sufficient maintenance checks being made on the liquid digestate sump which led to a pollution incident.

In the event that the movement of the digestate from the digester cannot be made directly to the liquid digestate storage tank whilst awaiting parts, then regular additional checks must be made on the liquid digestate sump, and measures put in place to prevent digestate entering the surface water system.

ACTION As there is an ongoing risk of pollution, you are required to provide details of these additional measures and an updated maintenance schedule by Thursday 23 September 2021.

ACTION Provide a copy of the maintenance record for the AD Plant for the past two

months by Thursday 23 September 2021.

ACTION Provide a copy of your written management system for review by 1 October 2021 which must include a site drainage plan.

Odour - Permit conditions 3.3.1 and 3.3.2 - Advice and guidance

Whilst Alastair was investigating the water pollution incident, he noticed that there was an odour emission in the vicinity of the AD Plant. However, as his primary reason for being on site was to investigate the water pollution incident he was not able to substantiate the source of the odour, whether it was from the AD Plant or from other farm activities.

Please investigate any possible cause of an odour emission off site and provide a response to NRW by Thursday 23 September 2021.

Notifications to NRW

Please send all correspondence and documentation to Liz Park (liz.park@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk) and copy in the Waste and Enforcement Team - Mid Wales (wasteandenforcement.mid@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk)

In this document 'Natural Resources Wales' means the Natural Resources Body for Wales established by Article 3 of the Natural Resources Body for Wales (Establishment) order 2012.

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.