

Compliance Assessment Report

Report ID:
CAR_NRW0031651

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

Site	Uskmouth Power Plant	Permit Ref	LP3131SW		
Operator/Permit holder	Simec Uskmouth Power Ltd				
Regime	Installations				
Date of assessment	09/05/2017	Time in	09:30	Out	16:00
Assessment type	Audit				
Parts of the permit assessed	General compliance audit				
Lead officer's name	Richards, Gareth (Rivers House)				
Accompanied by					
Recipient's name/position	Mike James/Morne van Aswegen/ Environment Dept.	Date issued	19/05/2017		

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
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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	0	Total compliance score (see section 5 for scoring scheme)	0
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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

The audit was arranged as part of the routine compliance assessment schedule. An agenda was provided beforehand. This included an OMA for Water audit that has been reported separately.

Review of last CAR form - NRW 000043

All actions had been completed or were no longer relevant due to termination of the SNCR trial programme (the main reason being that the inconsistent operation of U13 had meant that it had not proved possible to derive reliable performance data in respect of the effectiveness of urea injection upon NOx reduction).

Business Update

Senior management (JB/PH) provided a detailed summary of the current operations and prospective developments. A written summary was agreed to be provided to NRW. **Action: SIMEC Uskmouth Power.**

It was considered unlikely that the station would operate as a coal fired installation in the future. Instead its future was considered to be as a biomass fired station (single or multiple units). Other development options were under consideration that include alternative power generation schemes in addition to use of the existing power station. One of these is well advanced - construction of a STOR biodiesel fuelled generation plant (not directly associated with the permitted power station and claimed to be sub 50MWth. NRW have requested confirmation of the thermal MCR subsequent to the audit. **Action: SIMEC Uskmouth Power.** Further similar plant was also under consideration as a 'black start' unit. In the event that it is the intention to progress any such options to detailed development it is advised that NRW are contacted at an early stage in order to determine the requirement for a permit variation.

Investigation of switch gear failure

Investigation of the failure of the main site switch gear was near completion. To date NRW had not received any written confirmation of the incident that occurred on 3rd April 2017 (NRW were notified on the incident by FRS). It was agreed that NRW would be sent a copy of the investigation report that was being compiled for the HSE. (It should be noted that the permit requires NRW to be notified in the event of an incident that may significantly affect the environment - Permit condition 4.3.1). **Action: SIMEC Uskmouth Power.**

As a direct consequence of this incident mains power was not available to the installation. Power requirements were currently being provided by means of multiple mobile diesel generators.

PRTR data for 2016

Evidence of the calculation spreadsheet used to derive the input data for 2016 PRTR was requested. This was not available at the time but it was agreed a copy would be provided to NRW. **Action: SIMEC Uskmouth Power.**

QAL2 data

SIMEC Uskmouth Power were awaiting the final reports for the most recent QAL2 tests. Copies would be provided. These were received subsequent to the inspection and will be audited by NRW. **Action : NRW.**

Ash storage

The 'Temporary Ash Storage' compound was full (~100 000t) and an additional storage area (~15 000 - 20 000t) was now in use adjacent to the site entrance. While this area had been used previously for ash storage it was not a dedicated storage area. The reason for the high inventory was that there was a agreement with a company involved with the prospective M4 construction project to supply ash. Written evidence of this needs to be provided to NRW. **Action: SIMEC Uskmouth Power.**

Site inspection

The following areas of the site were inspected; water discharge points (W2, W1a, W1b), temporary ash store and associated drainage gully, biomass store, coal stockyard and associated run off ditch, lamella plate separator, stockyard diesel storage tank, additional ash storage area, water flow meter.

Historic ash mounds that were now grass covered but which there may be an interest in excavating were identified. This would be in the event that M4 construction work required the ash. It was noted that test boreholes had already been examined to determine

ash quality. Such changes to the site profiles would most likely necessitate preliminary consultation with Planning.

W1b discharge point was approaching being overgrown, the associated pond was in a reasonable condition. The water level was low and there was no on going discharge. It was indicated that barley straw would be added to the pond to mitigate algae growth over the summer. The temporary ash storage area surface water drainage gulley needed to be cleaned, there was a considerable amount of ash and static water in the gulley. In order to ensure the free flow of surface water run off this gulley needs to be maintained in a clean condition. The ash storage area was clearly full, it could be argued that it was overfull due to the condition of the entrance area, improved house keeping standards would be beneficial. The biomass store contained a small quantity of shea. The main lagoon was in a good condition and the associated discharge point W1a needed vegetation to be cleared. Residual coal stocks were low and it was the intention to clear all coal including the historic carpet coal. The run off ditch would need to be dredged if it was planned to continue to stock coal, although it may still be necessary to dredge to recover the contained coal dust. The bund for the diesel storage tank contained a significant quantity of water and detritus, it needed to be cleaned. Bunds should be subject to regular cleaning to aid the early identification of leaks and ensure their retention capacity is maintained.

Discharge point W2 was readily accessible, although vegetation clearance would be needed later in the year. The continuous water flow monitor was visually inspected, direct access not possible as positioned in a sump.

The additional area adjacent to the site entrance that was being used for supplementary ash storage was inspected. Whilst in this area heavy vehicle movements were witnessed which caused considerable fugitive dust for a short period. This needs to be effectively managed either by maintaining clean roadways, if feasible, or, the use of a water bowser during dry periods. **Action: SIMEC Uskmouth Power.**

AOB

The plans for the remaining urea inventory in the storage tank were queried in view that further SNCR testing was unlikely. It was noted that it may be possible to use it when firing biomass but otherwise a disposal route would need to be identified. In the meantime SIMEC Uskmouth Power need to ensure that the storage tank continues to be subject to an appropriate maintenance regime. **Action: SIMEC Uskmouth Power.**

EPR Compliance Assessment Report

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Operator/Permit holder	Simec Uskmouth Power Ltd	Date	09/05/2017

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.

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			

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.