

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0039359

Permit being assessed: VP3095FS.

For: Soil and Aggregates Treatment Plant, held by Neal Soil Suppliers Ltd

At: Atlantic Ecopark, Newton Road, Rumney, Cardiff, CF3 2EJ.

Type of assessment carried out: Report/Data Review, Reason: Routine.

On 14/02/2022.

Parts of permit assessed: Annual returns

NRW Lead Officer: Lewis Evans.

Report sent to: Gavin Powell, Technical Assessment Chemist on 14/02/2022.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
G4 - Monitoring and Records, Maintenance and Reporting - Reporting and notification to Natural Resources Wales	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
0	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?

No action required.

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.

At this time, we do not intend to take any further action.

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

EPR/VP3095FS – Neal Soil Suppliers Ltd (Neals)

Neals submitted their annual report to satisfy permit condition 4.2.2 on the 26th January 2022. As part of the report, Neals submitted the Operational Procedure WI11 (Appendix A), Filter Cake Analysis Results and Classification Reports (Appendix B), Waste Consignments for Light Sludge (Appendix C), Waste Transfer for the debris (Appendix D) and Appendix E which includes the following forms. Energy Usage, Water Usage, Performance Parameters.

Waste Treatment BREF

Neals have submitted the information relating to IPC2, IPC3 and IPC4. This information is due to be reviewed and any further information will be requested via email.

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Performance Reports

- **Energy Usage**

The site used a total of 152,314 litres of diesel to be used for the wash plant. Having had conversations with Tim Colebrook he has stated

“the “two” diesel older type generators that provided power to the Wash Plant were changed to a “single” more modern energy efficient diesel generator, this providing a higher throughput figure and reduced fuel usage for the operation of the Wash Plant in 2020 hence the lower diesel consumption”.

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) welcome this improvement to the wash plant, as well as if you think if any further if any further technology or fuels to improve the efficiency of the wash plant.

- **Water Usage**

There was no water imported to this site for the year 2021, this is due to the wash plant working in a closed loop system. If the wash plant requires water, the site utilises and tops up using water from the buffer zones and not from the SSSI.

- **Performance Parameters**

As part of this form, the site has submitted the treated materials on site for the year.

Parameter	Units
Treated Non-Hazardous	220,000 tonnes
Treated Hazardous	25,820 tonnes

Aggregates Produced	165,000 tonnes
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- **Filter Cake**

The report states that the filter cake that is designated for manufacturing of soil will be tested for a standard suit of analysis which includes the following:

- Metals
- Speciated total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH), with the fraction of petroleum (gasoline) and diesel range;
- Speciated Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)

Results of these testing's were submitted in Appendix A and B of the report.

- **Light Sludge**

79.26 tonnes of light sludge were produced in 2021. Of which, 71.28 tonnes were sent to "Castle Environmental" and the remaining 7.98 tonnes was sent to "Tredebe UK" for disposal as Hazardous Waste. The appropriate waste disposal tickers for the sludge were provided in Appendix C of the report.

- **Light Debris**

Although not listed in the above discussed report, the wash plant also produces another fraction. This is collected as debris from the trash screen and usually contains light fractions of materials such as light plastics, paper, and balls of polystyrene, etc. This is usually collected and sent to Atlantic as combustible material capable of being recovered in the RDF production process.

A total of 2996.01 tonnes were removed off the site during 2021 to the adjacent Atlantic Recycling Limited. A Waste Transfer Note was provided in Appendix D showing this.

- **Recovery Efficiency**

In 2015, NRW requested that the annual report provides information on the energy efficiency of the treatment process of the Wash Plant at Neals. It states that:

"The SGN, referring to metals contamination, requires that the operator provides the regulator with an assessment of the efficiency of the treatment process in relation to Schedule 5 (of the PPC Regulations) pollutants in terms of the removal or partition of substances within the process, for example:

- *the precipitation of metals from solution for removal in the filter cake*

- *the degree of transfer between the incoming waste and the emissions (to air, solid waste to land and liquid effluent to sewer of, for example, pesticides or solvents).*

Neals replied with:

“Due to the nature of the material treated and processes used, calculation of the efficiency cannot be calculated as a ratio of concentration in the input to the output as can be done in “precipitation of metals from solution”. This approach is only applicable to material with high consistency and therefore there is high level of confidence in the concentration being representative of the input material. Accordingly an efficiency calculation was not agreed during the development of the preoperational report. The wash process generate not only one but a number of outputs including not only the filter cake but many other constituent including the different granular materials (sands, gravels and other aggregates) in addition to the light sludge that is removed through the flotation unit. A simple approach can be used to calculate the efficiency of the wash plant by calculating the ratio of the recovered fractions compared to the total treated in any patch or for a specified period of time”.

Therefore, Neals have calculated the efficiency, as previously proposed, from the ratio of recovered quantities to the total quantity of treated waste on annual basis. A total of 245,820 (25,820 tonnes Hazardous and 220,000 tonnes Non-Hazardous) were processed in the wash plant during 2021. The total quantity of disposed material including the light sludge (79.26 tonnes) and the light debris (2996.01 tonnes) is approximately 3075.27 tonnes with the remaining 242,744.73 tonnes, either have been or are in the process of being recycled, an efficiency of approximately 98.75%. Light debris is removed to the Atlantic site as waste and is mostly recovered as a fuel after moving through the process at Atlantic.

Other Recoverable materials include:

- 165,000 tonnes of sand aggregates (provided to the market)
- 77,000 tonnes of filter cake
- 227.83 ferrous metals (recovered for recycling)
- 13.47 of non-ferrous metals (recovered for recycling)

These figures are within the permitted limits of the permit.

- **Raw Materials**

The following raw materials were used in the wash plant throughout the year.

- D-Sperse PE58 6000kg
- D-Floc 335 6500kg
- D-Floc 5278 2500kg
- Sulphuric Acid 4100kg

END

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.