



Environmental Site Management Plan

Raw Materials, Water and Waste Residue Efficiency Management Plan: Bracknell STW



Using this standard

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This standard works in combination with other corporate documents including the Asset Standards, Site Operating Manuals, site Odour Management Plans, Health and Safety Standards, and regulatory permits.

Document Control & Procedures

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Glossary of Terms

| TERM | DESCRIPTION |
|-----------|---|
| AD | Anaerobic Digestion |
| CHP | Combined Heat and Power |
| DEFRA | Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs |
| EA | Environment Agency |
| EMS | Environmental Management System |
| EPR | Environmental Permitting Regulations |
| FFT | Flow to Full Treatment |
| FIBC | Flexible Intermediate Bulk Container |
| IBC | Intermediate Bulk Container |
| ICA | Instrumentation Control & Automation |
| IED | Industrial Emissions Directive |
| OCU | Odour Control Unit |
| OMC | Operational Management Centre |
| OMP | Odour Management Plan |
| PFT | Picket Fence Thickener |
| PM | Process Manager |
| PS | Pumping Station |
| PST | Primary Settlement Tank |
| Receptors | Sensitive receptors are any fixed buildings or installations where odour annoyance may occur, such as residential homes, schools, hospital, offices, shops or garden centres. Open areas such as playgrounds and public footpaths should also be listed where these are known to have been affected by odour. |
| SAP | Thames Water's enterprise resource and planning system |
| SCADA | Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition |
| SOM | Site Operating Manual |
| STW | Sewage Treatment Works |
| TW | Thames Water |
| UWWTD | Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive |

1. Executive Summary

In accordance with the consolidated IED Environmental Permit for Bracknell; Waste BAT, specifically BAT3; and associated written management systems, this is the site management plan covering use of raw materials, water and residues. Thames Water Utilities Ltd is required to review and record at least every 4 years whether there are suitable alternative materials that could reduce environmental impact or opportunities to improve the efficiency of raw material and water use and to carry out a waste minimisation review.

The prime function of the Sludge Treatment Centre (STC) at Bracknell Sewage Treatment Works (STW) is to capture the energy potential from the treatment of sewage sludges. The plant is run 24/7 due to the continuous supply of sewage received at the STWs either from the surrounding catchment, or via tanker discharge.

This document forms part of the Thames Water Environmental Management System (EMS) for the permitted STC within Bracknell STW.

Thames Water is committed to continual environmental improvements, including materials management, water resources and waste management. This commitment is delivered through efficient control of processes, capital investments, and environmental training.

2. Process Responsibility

The Operational Manager for the site has overall responsibility for reviewing the processes on the site that use raw materials, raw water and create residual wastes. This document is reviewed 4-yearly, but the review process is ongoing as part of the regular performance monitoring for the site.

There are many drivers for reducing use of raw materials, and creation of wastes within our processes, including environmental, financial, and resourcing, so it is in our best interests to undertake these reviews regularly, and to include representatives across the full chain of specialist teams involved in the decisions. For example, from initial procurement processes, and contractor management, through to operations, alarms, and the regular maintenance of the installation. These all work together to ensure that the processes utilise the minimum amount of raw materials/water (such as overdosing of chemicals), and that wastes are minimised (such as worn parts or broken machinery).

3. Raw Materials and Water Management

There are a limited number of raw materials used in the process. All materials used at the installation are subject to storage and handling procedures, as laid out in relevant Asset / Essential Standard and the Site Operating Manual (SOM). There are no dusty or potentially wind conveyed materials used on the installation.

The use of raw materials is carefully monitored and benchmarked for cost reasons, and in many cases the correct quantity has to be precisely used for proper processing to take place, so there are controls in place through monitoring and optimisation of the process.

Regular maintenance of the installation, is carried out in accordance with the site's preventative maintenance programme, and the SOM. This ensures that there are minimal energy losses from worn parts, thereby maintaining its inherent efficiency.

4.1 Biogas

The principal fuel used in the installation is biogas resulting from the anaerobic digestion of sludge from the STC. There is no alternative fuel used in the Combined Heat and Power (CHP) engine as the biogas

utilisation is the primary reason for the installation's existence. Biogas is primarily stored in one dual membrane Biogas Storage holder within the installation boundary.

The heat produced by the CHP engine allows digestion processes to be optimised in order to maximise biogas production. Overall, this allows a greater efficiency in converting sludge to biogas and power. Key to maximising the energy production of the site is the consistent and predictable production of biogas from the digestion process and the minimisation of the use of electrical power in doing so.

The generation and use of power and heat from a renewable biogas source represents a positive impact with respect to global warming potential.

Biogas is also used as the primary fuel for the boiler plant. The boilers operate if there is a temperature deficit to provide supplementary heat to the digestion plant, which happens occasionally in practise.

4.2 Diesel

Diesel is used in the installation as a standby for the boiler plant only in the event there is not sufficient biogas available.

4.3 Lubrication Oil

Lubrication oil used on site in the CHP engine, with the volume dictated by the operational requirements. Thames Water monitors the use of oil to increase its efficiency and reduce quantities required. The monitoring is carried out through a monthly oil analysis programme, which assesses the condition of the oil. The oil is changed if the quality is below pre-defined standards. This minimises consumption of oil as it will only be replaced when necessary. Once determined to be below standard, the oil is changed, and the replaced oil is sent for recycling off-site.

CHP engine oil is monitored for contaminants, which indicate oil performance and general engine condition.

4.4 Water

Water used on the installation is mains water, for three purposes:

1. General use;
2. Make up of polymer; and the
3. Heating loop and boiler system.

Water within the heating loop and boiler systems are treated with dosing chemicals under the management of a specialist subcontractor. It is in closed loop system which only requires minimal top up and inhibitor chemicals addition. This is to decrease water hardness that can cause scale build up within the heat exchangers. The system is inspected for leaks, particularly where excess water has to be added to top up the system.

A review has been undertaken of water use within the site, to see if lower grade water, specifically final effluent from the works can be used to replace any potable water. Savings have been identified and implemented, for example, where water is used for washing down purposes within the site, for example if a spillage of sludge occurs, this water is final effluent from the works.

4.5 Other Raw Materials

The site Odour Management Plan gives details of contractor performance and maintenance checks, so these are not covered further here.

Table 4.1 below lists all the raw materials used on site followed by Table 4.2 that gives their composition and fate.

Raw material use is subject to change as a result of internal procurements in order to identify opportunities for change (for economic, environmental, operational resiliency and market forces). The current list reflects raw materials used at the STC at the time of writing. .

Table 4.1 - Raw Material List

| Description of raw material and composition | Maximum storage amount (tonnes or as stated) | Annual throughput (tonnes per annum or as stated) | Description of the use of the raw material including any main hazards (include safety data sheets) |
|---|---|--|--|
| Sludge Polymer Product name: Flopam FO4650MPM | 2,000 litres stored in 1,000 litre IBCs stored on a portable bund | 5,000 litres | Agent used in sludge thickening process |
| Digested Sludge Polymer Product Name Flopam FB508 | 3,000 KG stored in 1,000 KG bulk bags stored inside of cake barn | 40 tonnes | Agent used in sludge thickening process |
| Diesel - Boilers Product name: WP White Diesel | 6,000 litres in diesel day tank | 24,000 litres | Back-up fuel for use within boilers |
| Diesel – Standby Emergency Generator Product name: WP White Diesel | 16,000 litres in diesel tank | 8,000 litres (used during monthly testing but excludes fuel use from emergency use during periods of grid failure) | Back-up fuel for use within standby emergency generator (Generator 2) |
| Lubricating oils Product Name: Chevron HDAX 6500 LFG | 1,200 litres within a tank inside the CHP container | 3,000 litres | Equipment lubrication |
| Glycol Coolant Product name: Delo XLC Antifreeze/Coolant - Premixed 40/60? | 2,000 litres, stored within 2x 1,000 litre IBCs on portable bunds | 1,000 litres | CHP engine coolant |

Table 4.2 - Composition and Fate of Raw Materials

| Raw Material | Composition | Fate | Viable Alternative |
|---|---|---|---|
| Biogas | Methane (57.2%) Carbon dioxide (41.6%) Other (1.2%) | Electrical and heat energy Air emissions of carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides | No Alternatives: CHP engines require biogas fuel. |
| Sludge polymer Product name: Flopam FO4650MPM | Adipic acid (<=2.5%) Sulphamidic acid (<=2.5%) | Absorption into sewage sludge. Leftover polymer returned to head of works via thickening liquors | No viable alternative |
| Digested sludge polymer Product name: Flopam FB508 | Hydrocarbons, C12-C15, n-alkanes, isoalkanes, cyclics, <2% aromatics (20-30%) Isotridecanol, ethoxylated (<5%) | Absorption into dewatered cake. Leftover polymer returned to head of works via dewatering liquors | No viable alternative |
| Diesel Boilers Standby Emergency Generator Product name: WP White Diesel | White diesel (100%) | Electrical and heat energy Air emissions of carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides | No alternatives. Back-up fuel us used rarely in practice |
| Lubricating oils (existing engine) Product name: Chevron HDAX 6500 LFG | Oil (100%) | Waste – Recycled | None known. |
| Glycol coolant Product name: Texaco Delo XLC Antifreeze/Coolant - Premixed 40/60 | Ethylene Glycol (34-<80%) Sodium 2- ethylhexanoate (1-<3%) | Waste – recovery or recycling | No viable alternative. |

5. Waste Gas and Water

5.1 Waste Gas Streams

Waste gases are generated in a limited number of locations within the site, primarily the air emission points associated with the biogas handling, storage and utilisation system.

Biogas comprises a mixture of approximately 40% carbon dioxide and 60% methane; with low levels of other volatile organic compounds and Hydrogen Sulphide and entrained moisture. Moisture is removed using moisture traps within the biogas handling system, so both the exact composition and volume of biogas handled at the site vary dependent upon the precise location where sampling occurs. This contains four main potential sources:

1. Pressure relief valves;
2. Boiler emissions;
3. CHP engine stack; and,
4. Emergency Flare Operation.

There are potentially low volumes of waste gases not captured from the Secondary Digester Tanks, Emergency Storage Tanks and Dewatering Feed Tank.

Pressure relief valves, if operated, will release raw biogas.

The CHP engine stack, boilers and emergency flare stack combust biogas, so will release primarily CO₂, and NO_x with low volumes of SO₂, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and CO.

The CHP engine stack is subject to routine maintenance and emissions testing as per permit requirements. The Emergency Flare stack is not monitored unless the operational hours exceed 10% of the year.

There are also low volume emissions from the odour control units on site, although the full composition of these is not analysed.

5.2 Waste Water Streams

Waste water is returned to the STW inlet from operational areas of the site via the site's drainage system. Waste water is then treated through the UWWTD stream. Where such transfers leave the permitted area for the digestion process, these are marked on the site plan.

Waste water arises from a number of sources within the STC. These include:

1. Sludge Thickening liquors from Picket Fence Thickener
2. Sludge Thickening liquors from Drum Thickeners
3. Digested Sludge Dewatering liquors from Belt Presses
4. Biogas condensate
5. OCU Waste Water
6. Washing/cleaning of surfaces

The majority of surface water drainage is rainfall related, however most rainwater, which falls on site is absorbed by soakaways and does not enter the drainage system.

At present, waste water returns to the works inlet are not metered or measured directly. Waste water liquor monitoring proposals will be developed in-line with the requirements of the applicable IC in the permit, draft proposals have been provided in a separate document which has been submitted to the Environment Agency. Refer to this proposal for full details.

5.3 Waste Water Drainage

Note that the drainage system at the works includes both process waters and surface water drainage within the same system. This reduces the risk of any spillages being released into a separate surface water drainage system and diverted directly to the adjacent water body. Instead, all water in the drainage system is captured and returned to the STW inlet for processing within the UWWTD stream at the site. Where drainage leaves the permit boundary, it may include waste waters from within areas of the site which sit outside of the installation permit boundary, due to the design and configuration of the drainage system within the STW.

At present, no direct monitoring of site drainage is carried out where it leaves the permit boundary, with regards to chemical composition; loading; volume or variability. All process returns within the drainage system originate within the incoming sludge derived from the main STW flow. As such, the loading originates within the STW and does not need confirmatory checking. Sampling and analysis of waste water drainage will be developed in line with the requirements of the applicable IC in the permit. Draft proposals are included within a separate document which has been submitted to the Environment Agency. Refer to this proposal for full details.

6. Inventory

6.1 Water usage

At present, water usage is not metered at the site.

6.2 Biogas

Biogas production is not subject to direct measurement, due to the difficulty of measuring volumes with or without moisture content. Instead, biogas production is monitored by CHP engine output over time. Emergency Flare use is monitored and recorded, and an allowance made for biogas based on flare capacity. Thames Water operate an ISO50001 Energy Management System, with the aim of continuous improvement. Energy reviews occur frequently, with energy performance reports being produced weekly and monthly.

As the production is dependent upon sewage inputs and flows, the volume produced in any month varies.

7. Residue Management

This section outlines the measures Thames Water take to:

- Minimise the generation of residues arising from the treatment of waste;
- Optimise handling of wastes in accordance with the waste hierarchy; and
- Ensure the proper treatment, recycling, or disposal of residues.

A residue is defined as the solid waste generated by the permitted waste treatment activity. With that definition, this document does not focus on the general wastes created from activities outside the scope of the permit, for example office buildings even if they are collocated on the same site, or on gaseous emissions from the processes. Nor does it include the solid sewage cake produced by dewatering digested sewage sludge, which is removed from site, following checks to determine its quality and adherence to appropriate requirements, and spread to land in accordance with the Sludge Use in Agriculture Regulations 1989 (SUiAR) and the Biosolids Assurance Scheme (BAS).

There are only a limited number of residue streams that require off-site disposal, treatment or recycling because this STC is co-located with Thames Water's STW. The residues are stored within designated areas.

Oil filters and some contaminated maintenance wastes are hazardous and are, therefore, segregated from non-hazardous wastes for disposal in line with appropriate legislation.

Where waste is required to be sent offsite, it is sent to a suitably permitted facility for disposal / treatment by approved third party waste management contractors.

A Waste Management Framework Contract ensures that approved contractors have been pre-vetted and helps ensure they have the relevant expertise, competency and access to appropriately permitted facilities appropriate to each transferred waste stream. Our waste contractors will supply us with a Waste Transfer Note (WTN) and/or Waste Consignment Note (WCN) - dependant on what type of waste is being removed from site. All waste documentation for the installation is retained for the appropriate length of time at the site (two years for WTN and three years for WCN).

The residues produced by the permitted processes including management in line with the waste hierarchy and areas for potential improvement and future review are detailed in Table 7.1 below:

Table 7.1 - Residue List

| Residue Type | Current Measures | In line with Waste Hierarchy | Potential Improvements |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| Waste lubricant oil | The quality of the oil is monitored so as to minimise its replacement. Any waste oil is recycled. Waste oil is stored in a tank within a bunded area inside the installation boundary. Off-site recovery at appropriately permitted facility | Recycled | No improvement opportunities foreseen. Current route considered to be BAT |
| Biogas condensate | Condensate is removed from the biogas lines using moisture traps Released to site drainage and returned to works inlet for processing within the UWWTD stream | Disposal following treatment | No improvement opportunities foreseen. Current route considered to be BAT |
| Oily rags, oil filters, air filters | Stored within appropriate segregated containers in the waste storage area. Disposed of (as hazardous waste) by specialist contractor | Disposal | No improvement opportunities foreseen. Current route considered to be BAT |
| Filter media from OCU | Removed from OCU during servicing for regeneration. Off-site recovery at appropriately permitted facility | Recovery | No improvement opportunities foreseen, as returned to manufacturer for refreshing. Current route considered to be BAT |
| Siloxane filters | Siloxane media is regenerative, reducing disposal requirements. At end of life, media is removed from siloxane filter unit during servicing. Off-site recovery at appropriately permitted facility. | Recovery | No improvement opportunities foreseen, as returned to manufacturer for refreshing. Current route considered to be BAT |
| Grit and screenings from digester cleansing | As much grit and screenings as possible are screened out during earlier processes (outside the scope of this permit) to minimise that entering anaerobic digestion process. | Grit: Landfill | No improvement opportunities foreseen. Current route considered to be BAT |

| Residue Type | Current Measures | In line with Waste Hierarchy | Potential Improvements |
|--------------|------------------|------------------------------|--|
| | | Screenings: Landfill | Grit / screenings fate reviewed on a periodic basis to identify alternative routes for this waste stream |

8. Summary and Recommendations

Currently, there are no additional techniques or raw material alternatives known, which could be implemented on site to reduce environmental impact or improve the efficiency of raw materials or water usage.

Where raw, potable, water can be replaced with lower grade water on site, for example for washing down small spillages, this has already been implemented.

Due to the small number and type of residue streams, there was very little scope for further reduction of those generated on site.