



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

Site	Hooton Park Sustainable Energy Facility				Permit Ref	CP3733QJ	
Operator/ Permit holder	HOOTON BIO POWER LIMITED						
Date	12/08/2024				Time in		Out
What parts of the permit were assessed	IC9 - Performance of the activated carbon abatement system for odour control						
Assessment	Report/data review	EPR Activity:	Installation	X	Waste Op	Water Discharge	
Recipient's name/position	Operations Manager						
Officer's name	Phil Bridges				Date issued	12/08/2024	

Section 1 - Compliance Assessment Summary

This is based on the requirements of the permit under the Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR). A detailed explanation and any action you may need to take are given in the Detailed Assessment of Compliance (section 2) and the Actions (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			Condition(s) breached
a) Permitted activities	1. Specified by permit	N	
b) Infrastructure	1. Engineering for prevention & control of pollution	N	
	2. Closure & decommissioning	N	
	3. Site drainage engineering (clean & foul)	N	
	4. Containment of stored materials	N	
	5. Plant and equipment	N	
c) General management	1. Staff competency/ training	N	
	2. Management system & operating procedures	N	
	3. Materials acceptance	N	
	4. Storage handling, labelling, segregation	N	
d) Incident management	1. Site security	N	
	2. Accident, emergency & incident planning	N	
e) Emissions	1. Air	N	
	2. Land & Groundwater	N	
	3. Surface water	N	
	4. Sewer	N	
	5. Waste	N	
f) Amenity	1. Odour	N	
	2. Noise	N	
	3. Dust/fibres/particulates & litter	N	
	4. Pests, birds & scavengers	N	
	5. Deposits on road	N	
g) Monitoring and records, maintenance and reporting	1. Monitoring of emissions & environment	N	
	2. Records of activity, site diary, journal & events	N	
	3. Maintenance records	N	
	4. Reporting & notification	A	
h) Resource efficiency	1. Efficient use of raw materials	N	
	2. Energy	N	

KEY: C1, C2, C3, C4 = CCS breach category (* suspended scores are marked with an asterisk),

A = Assessed (no evidence of non-compliance), **N** = Not assessed, **NA** = Not Applicable, **O** = Ongoing non-compliance – not scored

MSA, MSB, TCM = Management System condition A, Management System Condition B and Technically Competent Manager condition which are environmental permit conditions from Part 3 of schedule9 EPR (see notes in Section 5/6).

Number of breaches recorded	0	Total compliance score (see section 5 for scoring scheme)	0
If the Total No Breaches is greater than zero, then please see Section 3 for details of 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 (e.g. 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 suspended or consolidated scores.
- details of advice given
- any other areas of concern
- all actions requested
- any examples of good practice.
- a reference to photos taken

This report should be clear, comprehensive, unambiguous and normally completed within 14 days of an assessment.

This report relates to permit condition 2.4.1, Schedule 1, table S1.3, Improvement condition IC9:

The Operator shall undertake tests to confirm that the performance of the activated carbon filter abatement system for odour control. The report shall include:

- *Confirmation of the odour levels within the incoming untreated air and outgoing treated air;*
- *The percentage removal efficiency achieved by the abatement system;*
- *An assessment of the odour levels achieved by the abatement system against the design criteria, including a review of the predicted impacts using our H1 methodology.*
- *The anticipated operational life (in hours) of the carbon filter before odour control is compromised, to optimise replacement of carbon.*

The operator shall submit a report to the Environment Agency, for approval, summarising the findings along with any proposed improvements if required.

The following reports were submitted to the Environment Agency on 29-01-24:

- Back-up Abatement Assessment for Hooton Bio Power, Ref: SR0623-CGN-01v1, 26-01-24.
- Air Emissions Risk Screening: Hooton Bio Power Standby Odour Abatement EP CP3733QJ, Ref: J000136-07-001v1, 26-01-24.
- H1 Tool v8 Hooton Bio Power Jan 2024.

The Odour Management Plan SMI/HSE/EN/001/HEP, forming part of the management system, at Appendix 1 – Process and odour control measures, outlines the means of controlling odour from refuse derived fuel being handled during normal operation and abnormal operation and shutdowns. During abnormal operation and shutdowns a back-up facility consisting of a ventilation unit with a nominal airflow equivalent to one gasification line normal part load air consumption directed via activated carbon filters and discharged via a duct to the top of the boiler building, will take place.

The operator has installed a carbon abatement system fed from an extraction duct at the corner of the shredded waste bunker via a prefilter prior to the extract fan and carbon absorber. The absorber is a vertical bed unit with air flow introduced centrally along the unit length via a plenum chamber. The consultant has expressed reservation about the ability of the designed system to spread the inlet gas across the bed which could lead to reduction in the utility of the carbon and lead to breakthrough in the central carbon zone. We also note that the consultant has identified the carbon currently in use as virgin granular (4.76mm x 2.38mm particle size), and recommending that a copper oxide impregnated bed or carbon layer would be needed to remove Hydrogen sulphide.

The report submitted - Back-up Abatement Assessment for Hooton Bio Power, Ref: SR0623-CGN-

01v1, 26-01-24, indicates that the carbon abatement system was not operational at the time of the Consultants assessment, 30th October 2023, and it is understood that a test regime was suggested to the operator. This was conducted on 24th November 2023.

The results show a volumetric flow through the carbon absorber of 41927m³/hr, c.20% higher than design and producing a contact time of 2.4seconds. In their report the consultant indicates that this is a lower time than would be expected for odour control.

Analysis of inlet and outlet air was conducted for a limited number of parameters although no information is provided as to why these particular parameters were selected and this should be provided. The output analysis was also modelled using H1 Tool.

The analysis results indicate that the carbon currently in the unit is likely to have been spent. They have also identified an anomaly with the inlet odour measurement of 844 OUE/m³, (which would actually be expected to be much higher given the level of hydrogen sulphide measured in the influent gas), compared to the outlet odour measurement of 1529 OUE/m³.

Based upon the reports received, the requirements of permit condition 2.4.1, IC9, have not been complied with. We would suggest that the recommendations produced by the consultant in their report Ref: SR0623-CGN-01v1, are implemented and the unit retested during an outage.

Specifically, we would recommend taking further olfactory measurements in the incoming and outgoing air during outage to use to calculate efficiency and acceptable threshold emission at receptors, (using H1), and to act as a trigger for end of life carbon bed replacement. **We would request that this is completed and reported by 9th February 2025.**

Section 3- Enforcement Response

Only one of the boxes below should be ticked

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.

**Non-compliance with MSA, MSB & TCM do not constitute an offence but can result in the service of a compliance, suspension and/or revocation notice.*

Other than the provision of advice and guidance, at present we do not intend to take further enforcement action in respect of the non-compliance identified above. This does not preclude us from taking enforcement action if further relevant information comes to light or advice isn't followed.

In respect of the above non-compliance you have been issued with a warning. At present we do not intend to take further enforcement action. This does not preclude us from taking additional enforcement action if further relevant information comes to light or offences continue.

We will now consider what enforcement action is appropriate and notify you, referencing this form.

Section 4- Action(s)

Where non-compliance has been detected and an enforcement response has been selected above, this section summarises the steps you need to take to return to compliance and also provides timescales for this to be done.

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 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.

● A civil sanction Enforcement Undertaking (EU) offer may also be available to you as an alternative enforcement response for this/these offence(s).

See our Enforcement and Civil Sanctions guidance for further information

A breach of permit condition **MSA, **MSB** & **TCM** is not an offence but may result in the service of a notice requiring compliance and/or suspension or revocation of the permit.*

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 which 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.

MSA, MSB & TCM are conditions inserted into certain permits by Schedule 9 Part 3 EPR

MSA requires operators to manage and operate in accordance with a written management system that identifies and minimises risks of pollution.

MSB requires that the management system must be reviewed, kept up-to-date and a written record kept of this.

TCM requires the submission of technical competence information.

Section 6 – General Information

Data protection notice

The information on this form will be processed by the Environment Agency to fulfill its regulatory and monitoring functions and to maintain the relevant public register(s). The Environment Agency 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 (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 and taking any resulting action
- preventing breaches of environmental law
- assessing customer service satisfaction and improving its service
- Freedom of Information Act/Environmental Information Regulations request.

The Environment Agency 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 Environment Agency 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 28 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 a permit holder disagrees with the CAR form, they should raise their concerns to the officer or team which issued the form. This must be done within 14 calendar days of receipt. If the response does not resolve the issue, a permit holder can request an appeal of the regulatory decision. This request must be made within 28 calendar days of receipt of the response. More details on our regulatory appeals process can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/appeal-a-regulatory-decision-from-the-environment-agency>.

If you are still dissatisfied, you can make a complaint to the Ombudsman. For advice on how to complain to the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman phone their helpline on 0345 015 4033.