

The temporary storage of contaminated waste waters which have been removed from gas pipelines

If you comply with the requirements set out below, we will allow the temporary storage of contaminated waste waters, which have been removed from gas pipelines, without an environmental permit.

Background

Gas pipelines may occasionally suffer from water ingress. This water must be removed as quickly as possible and is sucked out into a tanker. The water may be classed as hazardous waste with a code 16 10 01* (aqueous liquid wastes containing dangerous substances). It is taken back to the company's depot where it is stored temporarily before being taken off site for disposal. Quantities that need to be stored vary, but may be up to 17 000 litres. Although there is a non-Waste Framework Directive exemption for the storage of waste at a site controlled by the producer, it is limited to 1000 litres for liquid waste. Storage above this amount would require an environmental permit.

Our position

We will not pursue an application for an environmental permit for the operation where:

- Waste water from gas pipelines is only stored at a place controlled by the producer.
- the maximum amount of waste stored at any place does not exceed 17 000 litres at any one time.
- The waste is stored in a secure¹ place.
- The waste is stored in a container with secondary containment in accordance with annex 1 of this position statement.
- The waste is stored for no longer than 3 months.
- The requirements of the Hazardous Waste Regulations²³ are met, if the waste is hazardous.

¹ a place is secure in relation to waste kept in it if—

(a) all reasonable precautions are taken to ensure that the waste cannot escape from it; and
(b) members of the public are unable to gain access to the waste.

² In England the Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005 apply and in Wales the Hazardous Waste (Wales) Regulations 2005 apply.

³ The pipeline location is covered by the RPS on [premises notification](#) and consignment notes would not be required to remove hazardous waste from this location.

- You meet the relevant objectives of the Waste Framework Directive; '... ensuring that waste management is carried out without endangering human health, without harming the environment and in particular:
 - (i) without risk to water, air, soil, plants or animals;
 - (ii) without causing a nuisance through noise or odours; and
 - (iii) without adversely affecting the countryside or places of special interest.'

Enforcement

In not pursuing an application for a permit, this means we will not normally take enforcement action unless the activity has caused, or is likely to cause, pollution or harm to health. For a more detailed explanation of this enforcement position, please refer to our **Enforcement and Sanctions Statement**. This document can be found on the 'How we regulate you' page in the Business & Industry section of our website.

This regulatory position will be reviewed by April 2013.

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Annex 1 – Interpretation of secondary containment

Secondary containment means a bund or any other system for preventing waste which has leaked from the primary container from escaping from the place where it is stored.

Where a bund is used as secondary containment –

- the bund must have an impermeable lining and
 - have a capacity of not less than 110% of the original container's storage capacity, or
 - if there is more than one container within the containment system, have a capacity of not less than 110% of the largest container's storage capacity or 25% of their aggregate storage capacity, whichever is the greater.
- reasonable precautions must be taken to ensure that the capacities specified above are maintained at all times.

customer service line

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incident hotline

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