

OPERATION OF THE ANAEROBIC DIGESTION PROCESS

Information Required By NIEA For An Operational Anaerobic Digester

1. The anaerobic digestion and biogas recovery processes shall be operated, maintained and monitored in accordance with methods specified in the Working Plan and Operating Manual, specific to the anaerobic digester operating on the particular site. Systems shall be installed and maintained to control and monitor the processes, to detect failure and to notify immediately any such failure to a responsible person.
2. The operator shall, at least every month, check all pressure/vacuum relief devices for extraneous matter, seating, corrosion and correct functioning. All checks shall be recorded and reported annually to NIEA.
3. All biogas condensate shall be collected and returned to the digester.
4. The concentration of hydrogen sulphide in the biogas shall be sampled automatically and monitored at hourly intervals or as otherwise agreed in writing with NIEA. Results of this monitoring must be available to the NIEA on request.
5. Gas pressure levels shall be monitored continuously in the plant. Results of this monitoring must be available to the NIEA on request.
6. The stand-by boiler shall be maintained at all times. Availability of the stand-by boiler shall be checked regularly and an alarm system shall operate to indicate unavailability. All checks shall be recorded and reported annually to NIEA.
7. Gas flaring shall only be permitted under abnormal circumstances as detailed in the Operating Manual and during the commissioning period for the anaerobic digestion plant and the combined heat and power gas engine.
8. A record shall be kept of the times when the gas flare stack is operational detailing the time of commencement and cessation of burning, the amount of gas flared and the reasons for use of the flare. These records must be available to the NIEA on request.
9. In the event that the Combined Heat and Power Plant fails, the following shall be recorded and reported to NIEA;
 - i. The date and time the failure occurred and the date and time when normal operation was resumed
 - ii. Actions taken immediately after the failure was identified to minimise emissions
 - iii. The reason for the failure and any corrective actions taken to reinstate the plant
 - iv. Any significant emissions of unburned biogas, including the operation of pressure relief valves and the operation of the stand-by boiler