

Site Visit Report

Under the *European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2023*, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the supervisory authority in relation to Uisce Éireann and its role in the provision of public drinking water supplies. This audit was carried out to assess the performance of Uisce Éireann in providing clean and wholesome water to the public water supply named below.

The audit process is a sample of the performance of a water treatment plant and public water supply on a given date.

Water Supply Zone	
Name of Installation	Ennistymon RWS
Organisation	Uisce Éireann
Scheme Code	0300PUB1004
County	Clare
Site Visit Reference No.	SV31457

Report Detail	
Issue Date	13/02/2025
Prepared By	Orla Harrington

Site Visit Detail			
Date Of Inspection	16/01/2025	Announced	Yes
Time In	10:30	Time Out	11:15
EPA Inspector(s)	Orla Harrington		
Additional Visitors			
Company Personnel	Uisce Éireann: Darragh Conneely, Barry O'Mahony, Aine Butler, Susie McGuinness, Tommy Roche, Sharon O'Dwyer. Clare County Council (working in partnership with Uisce Éireann): Martin Looney.		

> Summary of Key Findings

1. Uisce Éireann have upgraded the Ennistymon water treatment plant in line with the remedial action list upgrade works bringing improvements to the management, operation, and control of the plant to enhance water quality, increase capacity and improve control of sludge treatment processes at the water treatment plant.
2. The commissioning phase of the upgrade has been completed and verification monitoring results obtained were compliant. Based on the audit findings, the EPA is satisfied to remove Ennistymon public water supply from the Q4 2024 EPA remedial action list.

> Introduction

The Ennistymon public water supply serves a population of 6,926 and produces 7,800 m3/day of treated water. Raw water is abstracted from Lickeen Lake located approximately 2km from the water treatment plant. Treatment consists of coagulation, flocculation, clarification followed by rapid gravity filtration, chlorination and fluoridation. There is sludge treatment on-site, consisting of a clarifier and dewatering units.

The supply is on the EPA's remedial action list (RAL) since Quarter 4 2015 under the category "EPA Audit Observation – Treatment & Management Issues". The purpose of the audit was to verify completion of RAL upgrade works as part of the EPA's assessment of suitability of the supply for removal from the RAL, focusing on the treatment upgrades undertaken at the plant since the previous audit on 10/05/2023.

> Supply Zones Areas Inspected

Treatment processes upgraded under RAL were inspected on-site, along with supporting information on alarms, controls and monitoring results.



1. Management and Control

1.1

Have the recommendations from the previous EPA audit been satisfactorily addressed?

Answer

Yes

Comment

1. All recommendations from the previous audit on 10/05/2023 have been fully completed.



2. Supply on the Remedial Action List

2.1

Is the Action Programme on track to meet the Remedial Action List completion date?

Answer

Yes

Comment

1. The purpose of the audit was to assess the suitability of the supply for removal from the EPA's remedial action list under the category "EPA Audit Observation – Treatment & Management Issues". Uisce Éireann submitted information to the EPA on 23/12/2024 summarising the upgrades completed.

2. Processes and controls have been upgraded to address the RAL action programme to increase the plants design capacity, support the 3 log requirement being met by the CFC and filtration processes, along with further works to improve the operation of sludge management and treatment at the plant. The scope of the upgrade included:

- new 2 stage flocculation tank to promote floc formation;
- new clarifier, upgrade of two existing clarifiers;
- upgrade of three existing rapid gravity filters, with associated turbidity controls ensuring that a log 3 credit can be applied to the plant;
- alarms and shutdowns linked to the plant SCADA system with a cascade call-out system to alert plant operators to any malfunction of the water treatment process;
- used wash water and sludge supernatant are now treated through a lamella clarifier, including turbidity alarms and shutdown on the discharge to the Ballymacraven River.

3. Verification monitoring submitted demonstrates that actions taken have been adequate.

Recommendations

Subject	Ennistymon PWS - Audit Report	Due Date	10/03/2025
Action Text	Uisce Éireann is responsible for ensuring a clean and wholesome supply of drinking water and should implement the following recommendation. 1. Continue to operate the plant so that adequately treated water enters the supply.		