

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	Cork Harbour and City
Organisation	Uisce Éireann
Scheme Code	0500PUB3401
County	Cork
Site Visit Reference No.	SV33034

Report Detail	
Issue Date	15/09/2025
Prepared By	Patrick Chan

Site Visit Detail			
Date Of Inspection	29/08/2025	Announced	No
Time In	12:45	Time Out	14:00
EPA Inspector(s)	Patrick Chan		
Additional Visitors			
Company Personnel	Uisce Éireann: Niall O'Riordan, David Keating.		

> Summary of Key Findings

1. On 28/08/2025, the operator became aware of a bitumen-type liquid that had entered the raw water sumps at the Cork Harbour and City Water Treatment Plant in Inniscarra. The raw water intake was shut off, and the material was removed from the sump.
2. Following the removal of the spill, an inspection of the water treatment systems was carried out, along with risk assessments and compliant water monitoring. Treatment operations resumed on 29/08/2025.
3. Upon investigation, it was found that contractors working on a roof had spilled a bituminous-type product, which entered the raw water sumps via a roof gully.

> Introduction

The Cork Harbour and City Public Water Supply (PWS) serves a population of 143,555 with an average output of 64,135 m³/day (EPA EDEN figures 2025). Raw water is abstracted from the River Lee at the Inniscarra Lake. Treatment at the Inniscarra Water Treatment Plant (WTP) includes coagulation, flocculation, clarification, filtration, disinfection, final pH correction, fluoridation and sludge treatment.

> Supply Zones Areas Inspected

The audit focused on the bitumen spill at the water treatment plant.



1. Incident Management

1.1

Was the incident suitably alerted to the plant operators, escalated and managed in order to maintain water quality and protect public health?

Answer

No

Comment

At an unknown time on 28/08/2025, contractors working on the roof of the pumping station spilled a bituminous type product. The exact volume spilled is not known but was less than 20 litres. The spill was partially cleaned up but some of the spill entered a roof gully. It was not known at the time, but the roof gully is designed to harvest rainwater from the roof of the pumping station into the raw water sumps. The roofing contractors did not report this incident to the plant operators.

A separate team of contractors were working inside the raw water sumps and noticed a slick in the water. This was reported to the plant operators and the plant was shut down at approximately 8.15pm on the 28/08/2025.

The raw water sumps were emptied between the 28/08/25 and 29/08/2025. Examination of the water treatment system, risk assessments and monitoring of the water quality were conducted. Once it was confirmed that the spill did not have an impact on water quality, the water treatment plant was restarted at 10.45 on 29/08/2025.

Samples analysis on the raw and treated water from the 29/08/2025 to the 02/09/2025 came back clear.

Recommendations

Subject	Audit Recommendations	Due Date	15/10/2025
Action Text	<p>Uisce Éireann is responsible for ensuring a clean and wholesome supply of drinking water and should implement the following recommendation without delay.</p> <p>1. Ensure that all contractors working at the water treatment plant report any incidents to Uisce Éireann promptly.</p> <p>Actions required by Uisce Éireann</p> <p>During the audit, Uisce Éireann representatives were advised of the audit findings and that action must be taken by Uisce Éireann to address the issues raised.</p> <p>Uisce Éireann should submit a report to the EPA on or before 15/10/2025 detailing the actions taken and planned, with timescales, to close out the above recommendations.</p> <p>The EPA advises that the findings and recommendations from this audit report should, where relevant, be addressed at other public water supplies.</p>		