

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	Reenmeen West
Organisation	Uisce Éireann
Scheme Code	0500PUB4608
County	Cork
Site Visit Reference No.	SV35276

Report Detail	
Issue Date	09/07/2026
Prepared By	Maeve McHugh

Site Visit Detail			
Date Of Inspection	26/05/2026	Announced	Yes
Time In	12:15	Time Out	13:00
EPA Inspector(s)	Maeve McHugh Regina Campbell		
Additional Visitors			
Company Personnel	Uisce Éireann: Alan Harrington, Claire Hurley, Sharon O'Dwyer. Cork County Council (working in partnership with Uisce Éireann): Con O'Sullivan.		

> Summary of Key Findings

1. A Do Not Consume notice was placed on the Reenmeen West Public Water Supply on 20/01/2026 due to elevated levels of manganese in the treated water. Background levels of naturally occurring manganese in the raw water range up to approximately 300ug/l. The increase in treated water manganese levels in January 2026 is likely the result of the clogging and failure of a manganese filter system causing build up of manganese both in the on-site reservoir and in the distribution pipework.

2. The manganese filter has been replaced, the reservoir has been cleaned and plans were in place at the time of the audit to scour the distribution pipework before the end of June 2026 using a method known as ice pigging.

Uisce Éireann should submit a report to the EPA on or before 06/08/2026 detailing the actions taken and planned, with timescales, to close out the three recommendations on this audit report.

> Introduction

The Reenmeen West Public Water Supply (PWS) is a groundwater borehole source producing approximately 19m³/day, serving a population of 27 (Eden data).

This audit was undertaken in response to the notification by Uisce Éireann on 19/01/2026 of the failure to meet the manganese parametric value of 50ug/l in a sample taken from final water at the treatment plant on 13/01/2026 and the imposition of a Do Not Consume Notice on the Reenmeen West PWS on 20/01/2026.

Treatment consists of pumping raw water through a manganese filter tower before chlorination and pumping to distribution via an on-site reservoir. Residual chlorine is measured after contact time in the reservoir.

> Supply Zones Areas Inspected

The treatment processes at the water treatment plant were inspected as well as the borehole.



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

Yes

Comment

1. On 19/01/2026 Uisce Éireann notified the EPA of a manganese exceedance of 127ug/l from a sample taken from final water at the treatment plant on 13/01/2026. Following consultation with the HSE, Uisce Éireann issued a Do Not Consume notice for all consumers on the Reenmeen West PWS on 20/01/2026. That restriction remained in place at the time of the audit. Further samples taken at different locations on 30/01/2026 and 17/02/2026 showed manganese levels in the range 89-316 ug/l which is above the parametric value of 50 ug/l.

2. Uisce Éireann consider that the manganese filter became blocked resulting in the build up of manganese in the reservoir and in the distribution pipework. The reservoir was cleaned in 2026 and water had to be tankered while reservoir cleaning was ongoing. The filter was replaced approximately two months prior to the audit. Uisce Éireann consider that the manganese exceedances at the WTP are now rectified but persist within the distribution pipework. Ice pigging of the distribution pipe network to scour built-up manganese was scheduled for late June 2026.

3. Naturally occurring manganese levels in the raw water are typically 200-300ug/l. Raw water turbidity at the time of the audit was 0.042NTU and read at 0.059 NTU at the outflow from the reservoir.

4. The manganese filter is automatically backwashed at night using filtered water from the reservoir. At the time of the audit an automatic chlorine shutdown system was due to be installed.

Recommendations:

1. Provide details of additional corrective actions taken to restore compliance with the manganese parametric value including works taken in the distribution system.

2. Inform the EPA of any change in the advice provided by the HSE.

3. Confirm the upgrade to the chlorination system has been completed and is operational, when the Do Not Consume notice is lifted.

Recommendations

Actions required by Uisce Éireann

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.

Uisce Éireann is responsible for ensuring a clean and wholesome supply of drinking water and should implement the recommendations raised in this report without delay.

Response to Audit Report

Uisce Éireann should submit a report to the EPA on or before the date specified in the Summary of Key Findings detailing the actions taken and planned, with timescales, to close out the recommendations in this audit report.

The EPA advises that the findings and recommendations from this report should, where relevant, be addressed at other public water supplies.

Publication of Reports

Audit reports are published to the EPA's website, www.epa.ie, typically 1 month after the audit report is issued to Uisce Éireann.