

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	Mountrath 3 PWS
Organisation	Uisce Éireann
Scheme Code	1600PUB1057
County	Laois
Site Visit Reference No.	SV32987

Report Detail	
Issue Date	10/10/2025
Prepared By	Lisa Noone

Site Visit Detail			
Date Of Inspection	10/09/2025	Announced	Yes
Time In	12:20	Time Out	13:25
EPA Inspector(s)	Lisa Noone		
Additional Visitors			
Company Personnel	Uisce Éireann: Linda Doran, Maria Lloyd Laois County Council (working in partnership with Uisce Éireann: Tom O'Carroll, Declan Carroll, Brendan Garry		

> Summary of Key Findings

1. The audit found that fault alarms were being dialled-out for chlorine monitors at the water treatment plant which require investigation.
2. The site specific incident escalation flowchart on display at the plant requires updating.

> Introduction

Mountrath 3 Public Water Supply (PWS) supplies an average of 600m³ of water per day from Clonin Hill Water Treatment Plant, serving a population of approximately 1,515 people. Raw water is abstracted from two boreholes, one of which is located on site at the treatment plant. Treatment consists of chlorination, with treated water stored in an off-site reservoir.

> Supply Zones Areas Inspected

All treatment processes at Clonin Hill WTP were inspected as part of the audit.



1. Alarms, Inhibits & Oversight Audits 2025

1.1

Is there a documented site specific incident response and incident escalation process?

Answer

Yes

Comment

1. The Uisce Éireann incident escalation flowchart was displayed at the WTP.
2. The flowchart included a site-specific trigger level of 0.5 mg/l for chlorine residual post-contact time (Ct). This value was not consistent with the Ct calculation established for Clonin Hill WTP, and therefore does not reflect the operational parameters for the site.
3. Site-specific contact information was also not up-to-date.

1.2

Were online monitors operational?

Answer

No

Comment

1. Plant operators stated during the audit that alarms were dialling-out for CI002 and CI003 monitors stating an instrument fault. A fault has not been identified by operators and fault alarms for CI002 and CI003 are intermittently disabled as a result.

1.3

Are there appropriate procedures covering verification of alarms and inhibits status following maintenance or other work on site?

Answer

No

Recommendations

Subject	Mountrath 3 PWS Audit Recommendations	Due Date	10/11/2025
Action Text	Uisce Éireann is responsible for ensuring a clean and wholesome supply of drinking water and should implement the following recommendations without delay. 1. Investigate and resolve any potential issues affecting chlorine monitors CI002 and CI003 at the treatment plant and ensure alarms are enabled at all times. 2. Ensure that the Uisce Éireann Incident Communication Response Guidance Form displayed at the WTP contains site specific information including contacts for escalation and relevant site specific trigger levels protecting critical processes at the WTP. 3. Develop a procedure and deliver appropriate training covering the verification of alarms/shutdowns status following maintenance or other works completed at the treatment plant. This procedure should clearly document the corrective actions and set out delegation of responsibilities. 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 should submit a report to the EPA on or before the above due date detailing the actions taken and planned, with timescales, to close out the above recommendations. The EPA advises that the findings and recommendations from this audit report should, where relevant, be addressed at other public water supplies.		