

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	Tallanstown
Organisation	Uisce Éireann
Scheme Code	2100PUB1005
County	Louth
Site Visit Reference No.	SV30734

Report Detail	
Issue Date	13/12/2024
Prepared By	Ruth Barrington

Site Visit Detail			
Date Of Inspection	27/11/2024	Announced	Yes
Time In	10:50	Time Out	13:05
EPA Inspector(s)	Ruth Barrington		
Additional Visitors			
Company Personnel	Uisce Éireann: Joseph Moran, Peter Ligget, Francis McGley Louth County Council: Andrew White CSL (works contractor): Chris Daly		

> Summary of Key Findings

1. Uisce Éireann has not complied with the Direction deadline of 31/12/2020 for the rationalisation of the supply with the Cavanhill Public Water Supply. A significant three year delay arose with acquisition and access to all sites for the construction of the pipeline and associated pumping and booster stations.
2. Construction is now well progressed at each of the off-site locations and the rationalisation project is due for completion by early Quarter 2 of 2025.

> Introduction

Tallanstown public water supply (PWS) supplies a population of 2,010 people. Water is abstracted from the River Glyde and treated at the Tallanstown water treatment plant (WTP) using processes of coagulation, flocculation and clarification, rapid gravity filtration and disinfection using on-site electrochlorination (OSEC).

Tallanstown PWS was placed on the EPA's Remedial Action List (RAL) in 2019 following EPA audit findings indicating a lack of resilience of treatment processes in 2018 and 2019. The EPA also issued a Direction to Uisce Éireann, for the completion of the RAL action programme to rationalise the supply with the Cavanhill PWS. The deadline for completion was 31/12/2020. This audit was carried out to assess the progress of the delayed action programme.

> Supply Zones Areas Inspected

Sites at Mullacrew, Bannon's Cross and Allardstown Co. Louth were visited to assess progress with the Remedial Action List programme of works for this supply. The clarifier, rapid gravity filter and OSEC disinfection at Tallanstown WTP were also included in the scope of the audit.



1. Coagulation Flocculation and Clarification (CFC) Stage

1.1

Were the CFC processes visually observed to be operating appropriately during the audit?

Answer

No

Comment

1. Large amounts of pin floc were observed rising in the clarifier during the audit. Operational staff noted that raw water changes during a storm the previous weekend had required a change in coagulant dose which still required further adjustment.



2. Management and Control

2.1

Are suitable plant shutdowns/inhibits in place to prevent the entry of inadequately treated water entering the distribution network?

Answer

No

Comment

1. The plant shutdown linked to low chlorine residual has a time delay of 15 minutes, which is in excess of the maximum 5 minute time delay recommended in the EPA's *Water Treatment Manual: Disinfection*.



3. Supply on the Remedial Action List

3.1

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

Answer

No

Comment

1. Uisce Éireann did not comply with the EPA Direction to rationalise the supply by 31/12/2020. The programme was subject to prolonged delays for three years due to difficulties in obtaining the required land acquisitions and access rights for the construction of the pipeline, pumping and booster stations at Mullacrew, Bannons Cross and Allardstown.
2. The latest completion date supplied by Uisce Éireann for the RAL action programme in Q2 2024 was August 2024. The works were not complete by that date.
3. The last of the land acquisition agreements was signed in early November 2024 and contractors were on-site promptly following this. During the audit, work was confirmed at various stages of completion at Mullacrew (almost complete), Bannons Cross (largely complete) and Allardstown (at pipe layout and kiosk base construction stage).
4. Uisce Éireann staff indicated a completion date for the rationalisation project of March to April 2025. Some uncertainty remained due to ESB connection required at Allardstown and ESB meter at Bannons Cross, for which dates were not yet available.

Recommendations

Subject	Tallanstown Audit 27/11/2024	Due Date	31/12/2024
Action Text	<p>Uisce Éireann is responsible for ensuring a clean and wholesome supply of drinking water and should implement the following recommendations without delay.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Provide the completion date for the rationalisation of the supply within the Q4 RAL update to the EPA, including consideration of the required ESB connection and meter at Allardstown and Bannon's Cross.2. Review the time delay applied to the low chlorine residual shutdown at Tallanstown WTP, to align with the recommendation in the EPA <i>Water Treatment Manual: Disinfection</i>.3. Ensure that coagulant dosing is kept under review pre-rationalisation, to optimise the existing processes as far as possible. <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. A response to Recommendation 1 is required as part of the Q4 2024 RAL update provided by Uisce Éireann.</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>		