

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	Erris RWSS
Organisation	Uisce Éireann
Scheme Code	2200PUB1007
County	Mayo
Site Visit Reference No.	SV32028

Report Detail	
Issue Date	09/10/2025
Prepared By	Veronica Boland

Site Visit Detail			
Date Of Inspection	05/09/2025	Announced	Yes
Time In	10:30	Time Out	12:00
EPA Inspector(s)	Veronica Boland		
Additional Visitors			
Company Personnel	Uisce Éireann: Phelim Conway, Joe McGuire, Siobhán Sheridan, Thomas Gibbons. Mayo County Council (working in partnership with Uisce Éireann): Ann Browne, Catherine Maughan.		

> Summary of Key Findings

1. There is no run to waste provision following the backwashing of the filters at the Erris WTP. This was raised at a previous EPA audit carried out in 2020.

> Introduction

The Erris regional public water supply (RPWS) sourced from Carrowmore Lake, distributes an average volume of 4,174m³/day (design capacity is 4,500m³/Day) to a population of 4295 in Bangor Erris, Belmullet and the surrounding areas. Treatment processes include: pre-treatment pH correction, coagulation, clarification, rapid gravity filtration, chlorination and fluoridation.

There are 5 Group Water Schemes fed from Erris RWSS - Doohooma, Blacksod, Rossport, Glencastle, Foxpoint.

The audit was undertaken to assess Uisce Éireann's performance in producing clean and wholesome water with a focus on protozoal barriers.

> Supply Zones Areas Inspected

The site areas inspected during the audit:

- WTP treatment processes.



1. Management and Control

1.1

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

Answer

No

Comment

1. There is no run to waste provision following the backwashing of the filters at the Erris WTP. This was raised at a previous EPA audit carried out in 2020. At the audit, staff advised that the associated pipework and actuated valves had been installed to facilitate this run to waste and that commissioning of these works were planned to be completed by the end of Q4/2025.



2.1

Has UÉ identified the protozoal compliance log treatment requirement for the water treatment plant?

Answer

Yes

Comment

1. A source and sanitary survey was carried out for Erris RWSS in 2020 and a Log 3 requirement assigned.

2.2

Are the filters designed and managed in accordance with EPA guidance?

Answer

No

Comment

1. While filter backwash is triggered on time (every 30 hours) and headloss, it is not triggered by turbidity as recommended in the *EPA Water Treatment Manual: Filtration*.
2. Refer also to section 1.1.

2.3

Are alarms and inhibits on each filter, on the combined filtered water and final water in accordance with the EPA Filtration Manual?

Answer

No

Comment

1. The local SCADA displayed for each of the 3 rapid gravity filters a 'High Level' alarm setpoint of 0.5 NTU but there was no information displayed relating to the time delay setpoint. The site specific Incident Response Form displayed at Erris WTP indicated that if individual filter turbidity were to exceed 0.3 NTU, with no time delay setpoint, that supervisor is to be notified.

Recommendations

Subject	Erris RWSS Audit 2025 (Protozoal) Recommendations	Due Date	10/11/2025
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. Review and amend, as appropriate, the turbidity alarm setpoint for the rapid gravity filters to ensure the <i>Cryptosporidium</i> barrier is not compromised and is in accordance with the Log credit approach in the <i>EPA Water Treatment Manual: Filtration</i>.2. Install automatic backwashing linked to a turbidity alarm setpoint in accordance with the <i>EPA Water Treatment Manual: Filtration</i>.3. Complete works relating to the installation and commissioning of the run to waste facility at the Erris RWSS WTP. <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 10th November 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>		