

# 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	Hollyford
Organisation	Uisce Éireann
Scheme Code	2900PUB0143
County	Tipperary
Site Visit Reference No.	SV32209

Report Detail	
Issue Date	10/04/2025
Prepared By	David O'Malley

Site Visit Detail			
Date Of Inspection	06/03/2025	Announced	Yes
Time In	12:20	Time Out	13:00
EPA Inspector(s)	David O'Malley		
Additional Visitors			
Company Personnel	Uisce Éireann: Denis McGrath, Melissa Devane and Noel Maher.		

## > Summary of Key Findings

1. The operator of the Hollyford water treatment plant became aware of a potential diesel spill into the Lackenacreena Stream adjacent to the water treatment plant on 14/02/2025. The water treatment plant operator observed pooled oil around grass in the stream located downstream of the water treatment plant. Upon investigation it was found that the source of the contamination was from a hired generator operated at the plant during Storm Eowyn.
2. Uisce Éireann have completed part of the works associated with the recommendations from the previous audit of the plant undertaken on 04/12/2024. Remaining works to be completed included the installation of a residual chlorine monitor, access to trended data for operational staff at the treatment plant and installation of a high turbidity warning alarm.

## > Introduction

Hollyford Public Water Supply (PWS) serves a population of 241 people and supplies on average 188 m<sup>3</sup>/day (EDEN 2024 figures). The plant is sourced by a single borehole and treatment consists of chlorination only.

## > Supply Zones Areas Inspected

The audit focused on the diesel spill from the diesel generator that was stationed beside the Lackenacreena Stream.



## 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**

Yes

**Comment**

At approximately 10.30am on 14/02/2025 the operator at the Hollyford water treatment plant (WTP) became aware of a potential diesel spill into the Lackenacreena Stream adjacent to the WTP. The plant operator observed oil pooled around grass in the stream located downstream of the WTP. No fish kills were observed. Uisce Éireann, Tipperary County Council and Inland Fisheries Ireland were contacted and an investigation initiated. Upon investigation Uisce Éireann found that the source of the contamination was from a hired diesel generator operated at the plant during Storm Eowyn.

The generator was installed on 25/01/2025 and removed by 27/01/2025. On the 19/02/2025 approximately two cubic metres of material from where the generator was stored was removed and replaced with new material by Uisce Éireann.

Total petroleum hydrocarbon sample analysis on raw and treated water on 03/03/2025 came back clear.



## 2. Management and Control

2.1

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

Answer

No

### Comment

Outstanding recommendations from the audit undertaken at Hollyford PWS on the 04/12/2024:

1. Install a chlorine residual monitor including appropriate warning alarms and plant shutdown setpoints to ensure target chlorine contact time is achieved and verified at all times.

Progress Update: As part of the water treatment upgrade contract Uisce Éireann will install a chlorine residual monitor including appropriate warning alarms and plant shutdown setpoints, to ensure target chlorine contact time is achieved and verified at all times. It is currently estimated that these works will commence in 2028. Further timelines will be provided to the Agency once the scope of the works to be carried out at Hollyford WTP have been agreed.

2. Provide a suitable means for operational staff to access trended data at the treatment plant and provide training to all staff for the system provided.

Progress update: A new HMI system will be installed to provide access to operational staff at the treatment plant as part of the water treatment upgrade contract. It is currently estimated that these works will commence in 2028. The caretaker is currently able to view trends for chlorine and turbidity on his phone accessing the water core system.

5. Install an appropriate high turbidity warning alarm to alert operators of deteriorating water quality before plant shutdown occurs.

Progress update: A high turbidity warning alarm to alert operators of deteriorating water quality before plant shutdown occurs will be delivered as part of the water treatment upgrade contract. It is currently estimated that these works will commence in 2028. At present auto shutdown is in place for turbidity to ensure no non compliant water with elevated turbidity enters the network.



### 3. Site Specific Issues

3.1

Are ancillary machinery onsite maintained to ensure no discharges to the environment occur?

**Answer**

No

**Comment**

1. Diesel leaked from a hired diesel generator used at the water treatment plant from the 25/01/2025 to the 27/01/2025.

## Recommendations

Subject	Audit Recommendations	Due Date	12/05/2025
Action Text	<p><b>Uisce Éireann is responsible for ensuring a clean and wholesome supply of drinking water and should implement the following recommendations without delay.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop a set of procedures for the use of a temporary generator at the plant. The set of procedures should cover i) correct installation and operation of the generator ii) use of spill plates or drip trays under the generator iii) access to and use of oil clean up material and iv) system of checks to ensure that no contamination of the environment occurs. Training should be provided to all relevant staff on the procedures.</li> <li>2. Install a chlorine residual monitor including appropriate warning alarms and plant shutdown setpoints to ensure target chlorine contact time is achieved and verified at all times.</li> <li>3. Provide a suitable means for operational staff to access trended data at the treatment plant and provide training to all staff for the system provided.</li> <li>4. Install an appropriate high turbidity warning alarm to alert operators of deteriorating water quality before plant shutdown occurs.</li> </ol> <p><b>Actions required by Uisce Éireann</b></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 12/05/2025 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>		