



Drinking Water Audit Report

County:	Wexford	Date of Audit:	27 th March 2014
Plant visited:	Tellarought (3300PUB1815)	Date of issue of Audit Report:	8 th April 2014
		File Reference:	DW2014/159
		Auditors:	Mr Nigel Hayes Ms Yvonne Doris
Audit Criteria:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2014 (S.I. 122 of 2014)</i>. • The <i>EPA Handbook on the Implementation of the Regulations for Water Services Authorities for Public Water Supplies (ISBN: 978-1-84095-349-7)</i> • The recommendations specified in the EPA Report on <i>The Provision and Quality of Drinking Water in Ireland</i>. • The recommendations in any previous audit reports. 		

MAIN FINDINGS

- i. Consumers are currently receiving undisinfected water as there is no disinfection equipment in place at this supply.
- ii. The supply has been in operation since 1971. However, the Agency could not establish the extent of historical monitoring that has been carried out in the supply.

1. INTRODUCTION

Under the *European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2014* the Environmental Protection Agency is the supervisory authority in relation to Irish Water and its role in the provision of public water supplies. This audit was carried out in response to the notification by Irish Water on 20th March of the failure to meet the Coliform bacteria parametric value as specified in Table C of Part 1 of the Schedule of the Regulations and the subsequent imposition of a boil water notice on the Tellarought Supply.

The Tellarought PWS is a groundwater source which serves approximately 22 consumers. The supply has been in operation since 1971 and is supplied by a single well. There is currently no disinfection equipment in place at this supply. Therefore, consumers are receiving undisinfected water.

Photographs taken by Yvonne Doris during the audit are attached to this report and are referred to in the text where relevant.

The opening meeting commenced at 9.30am at the Tellarought Plant. The scope and purpose of the audit were outlined at the opening meeting. The audit process consisted of interviews with staff, review of records and observations made during an inspection of the treatment plant. The audit observations and recommendations are listed in Section 2 and 4 of this report. Where the text refers to the Water Service Authority, this refers to Irish Water in accordance with Section 7 of the Water Services (No. 2) Act 2013. The following were in attendance during the audit.

Representing Irish Water:

Liam Brett – Water Engineer, Irish Water.

Daniel McCartan – Area Engineer, Wexford County Council.

Noel Hayes – Senior GSS, Wexford County Council.
 Oliver Bennett – Plant Caretaker, Wexford County Council

Representing the Environmental Protection Agency:

Nigel Hayes - Inspector
 Yvonne Doris - Inspector

2. AUDIT OBSERVATIONS

The audit process is a random sample on a particular day of a facility's operation. Where an observation or recommendation against a particular issue has not been reported, this should not be construed to mean that this issue is fully addressed.

1.	<p>Source Protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The wellhead was sealed (see Photograph) and the borehole was lined to an approximate depth of 15 feet. However, borehole logs were not available at the plant. b. The wellhead was located in an unsecured, concrete chamber (see Photograph). c. Grazing is the predominant land use in the catchment. d. Land owners have not been written to with regard to their obligations under the <i>European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Waters) Regulations 2014 (SI No.31 of 2014)</i>. e. A <i>Cryptosporidium</i> Risk Assessment has not been completed for this supply.
2.	<p>Chlorination and Disinfection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Consumers are currently receiving undisinfected water as there is no disinfection equipment in place at this supply.
3.	<p>Monitoring and Sampling Programme for treated water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Although this supply has been in operation since 1971, the Agency could not establish the extent of historical monitoring that has been carried out in the supply.
4.	<p>Exceedances of the Parametric Values</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A result of 25 Coliform bacteria per 100 ml was reported for a sample taken on 10th March 2014. All follow up samples have been clear for microbiological parameters.
5.	<p>Hygiene and Housekeeping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The plant was clean, tidy and well maintained.

3. AUDITORS COMMENTS

The release of undisinfected water into supply is unacceptable and is putting the health of consumers at risk. The Water Services Authority should install an appropriate disinfection system without delay. The Water Services Authority should ensure that the disinfection system meets the guidelines set out in EPA Advice Note No.3.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

Source Protection

1. The Water Services Authority should implement the requirements of the *European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Waters) Regulations 2014 (SI No.31 of 2014)* and ensure that all landowners in the vicinity of the source are informed of their obligations under the Regulations.
2. The Water Services Authority should use the *Cryptosporidium* Risk Screening Methodology as outlined in EPA Handbook on the Implementation of the Regulations for Water Services Authorities for Public Water Supplies (ISBN: 978-1-84095-349-7) to determine the relative risk of contamination of the supply with *Cryptosporidium*. Following the risk screening the Water Services Authority should identify and implement measures to reduce the risk at the plant.
3. The Water Services Authority should ensure that the well chamber is secured with a locked access cover.

Disinfection

4. The Water Services Authority should install an appropriate disinfection system without delay and ensure that it meet the guidelines set out in EPA Advice Note No.3.

Monitoring and Sampling Programmes for Treated Water

5. The Water Services Authority should collate and submit to the Agency, all historical monitoring carried out on this supply.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS REQUIRED BY IRISH WATER

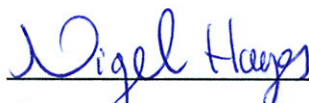
During the audit the Water Services Authority representatives were advised of the audit findings and that action must be taken as a priority by the Water Services Authority to address the issues raised. This report has been reviewed and approved by Ms Yvonne Doris, Drinking Water Team Leader.

The Water Services Authority should submit a report to the Agency within one month of the date of this audit report detailing how it has dealt with the issues of concern identified during this audit. The report should include details on the action taken and planned to address the various recommendations, including timeframe for commencement and completion of any planned work.

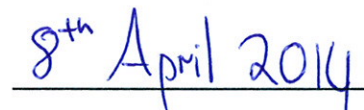
The EPA also advises that the findings and recommendations from this audit report should, where relevant, be addressed at all other treatment plants operated and managed by Irish Water.

Please quote the File Reference Number in any future correspondence in relation to this Report.

Report prepared by:


Inspector

Date:





Photograph: Sealed wellhead in an unsecured concrete chamber.