

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	Urlingford-Johnstown PWS
Organisation	Uisce Éireann
Scheme Code	1500PUB1015
County	Kilkenny
Site Visit Reference No.	SV30647

Report Detail	
Issue Date	04/12/2024
Prepared By	David O'Malley

Site Visit Detail			
Date Of Inspection	13/11/2024	Announced	Yes
Time In	13:45	Time Out	14:45
EPA Inspector(s)	David O'Malley		
Additional Visitors			
Company Personnel	Uisce Éireann: Denis McGrath. Kilkenny County Council (working in partnership with Uisce Éireann): Kevin Hogan, Michael Shortall and David McArdle.		

> Summary of Key Findings

1. The audit found that the turbidity monitor at the Urlingford-Johnstown water treatment plant (WTP) does not stay primed with water when the plant is not operational causing false high turbidity alarms.
2. There is no documented incident response procedure in place at the water treatment plant. Inhibits are in place to trigger automatic plant shutdown in response to critical alarms at the water treatment plant.

> Introduction

The Urlingford-Johnstown Public Water Supply (PWS) supplies an average of 561 m³/day of water, serving a population of 1,758 (2024 EDEN). The source for the supply is two boreholes. Treatment consists of UV and chlorination disinfection. Treated water is pumped and stored in an off-site reservoir.

> Supply Zones Areas Inspected

The UV disinfection, the chlorine dosing system at the water treatment plant were inspected.



1. Alarms, Inhibits & Oversight Audits 2024

		Answer
1.1	Is there a documented site specific incident response and incident escalation process?	No
Comment		
1. There is no documented site-specific incident response detailing contacts for escalation and relevant trigger levels at the WTP.		

		Answer
1.2	Were online monitors operational?	No
Comment		
1. The turbidity monitor at the WTP does not stay primed with water when the plant is not operational. This creates a false high turbidity reading and a high turbidity alarm is received.		

		Answer
1.3	Is there a documented alarm response procedure?	No
Comment		
1. There is no documented site specific procedure detailing how alarms are responded to at the WTP.		

Recommendations

Subject	Audit Recommendations	Due Date	02/01/2025
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. Ensure that the turbidity monitor does not issue false high turbidity alarms when the plant is not operational.2. Ensure that (i) 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, (ii) training is provided to WTP operators on the requirements of the Uisce Éireann Incident Communication Response Guidance Form to ensure incidents are recognised, escalated and acted upon promptly. <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 02/01/2025 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>		