

# 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	
<b>Name of Installation</b>	Wexford Town
<b>Organisation</b>	Uisce Éireann
<b>Scheme Code</b>	3300PUB1669
<b>County</b>	Wexford
<b>Site Visit Reference No.</b>	SV30031

Report Detail	
<b>Issue Date</b>	16/05/2024
<b>Prepared By</b>	David O'Malley

Site Visit Detail			
<b>Date Of Inspection</b>	25/04/2024	<b>Announced</b>	Yes
<b>Time In</b>	11:15	<b>Time Out</b>	12:40
<b>EPA Inspector(s)</b>	David O'Malley		
<b>Additional Visitors</b>			
<b>Company Personnel</b>	Uisce Éireann: Pat Duggan, Denis McGrath.  Wexford County Council (working in partnership with Uisce Éireann): Ken Jones, John Breen, Shane O'Neill.		

## > Summary of Key Findings

1. *Cryptosporidium* was detected in a final treated water sample taken at the Wexford Town public water supply on 28/03/2024 (1 count/no. per 10L). Following consultation with the HSE, follow up sampling was undertaken on two days and subsequently came back clear. The cause of the *Cryptosporidium* detection has not been identified following investigations undertaken.
2. The audit found that the Wexford Town Water Treatment Plant was operating satisfactorily on the day of the audit.
3. The Wexford Town PWS has been on the EPA's Remedial Action List since Quarter 4 2021 under the RAL Category 'EPA Audit Observation - Treatment and Management Issues'. Currently RAL upgrade works are taking place at the water treatment plant.

## > Introduction

The Wexford Town Public Water Supply (PWS) serves a population of 20,853 and produces 6,369 m<sup>3</sup>/day (EDEN figures). Raw water is abstracted from the Sow river (intake at Edenvale) (80% of supply) and the Coolree impoundment reservoir (20% of supply). Treatment consists of coagulation, flocculation, and clarification (CFC); rapid gravity filtration (RGF) and chlorination with sodium hypochlorite.

The Wexford Town PWS has been on the EPA's Remedial Action List (RAL) since Quarter 4 2021 under the RAL Category 'EPA Audit Observation - Treatment and Management Issues'. Currently RAL upgrade works are taking place at the water treatment plant.

The audit was undertaken in response to the detection of *Cryptosporidium* in a sample of the final treated water on 28/03/2024 and to assess progress with the RAL programme of works.

## > Supply Zones Areas Inspected

The main water treatment processes, incident response procedures and RAL upgrade works were inspected at the water treatment plant.



## 1. Incident Management

	Answer
1.1	Was the incident suitably alerted to the plant operators, escalated and managed in order to maintain water quality and protect public health?
	Yes
<b>Comment</b>	
<p>1. The EPA was notified on 05/04/2024 of a <i>Cryptosporidium</i> exceedance in a sample taken of the final water at the Wexford Town Water Treatment Plant (WTP) on 28/03/2024. Uisce Éireann monitor for <i>Cryptosporidium</i> and <i>Giardia</i> monthly as part of Uisce Éireann's <i>Rationale for Determining the Frequency of Cryptosporidium Monitoring in Public Water Supplies</i>. The March 2023 sample, taken on 28/03/2024, was found to contain <i>Cryptosporidium</i> at 1 count/No. per 10 litre.</p> <p>2. Uisce Éireann consulted with the HSE in relation to the exceedance. It was decided to resample the treated water for <i>Cryptosporidium</i>, inform the HSE of the results and to continue to monitor the operation of the plant.</p> <p>3. The follow up <i>Cryptosporidium</i> and <i>Giardia</i> samples were taken on 04/04/2024 and 09/04/2024 and analysed by a contract laboratory. Both sample results came back clear.</p> <p>4. Uisce Éireann reported that there were no issues at the WTP on the day of the exceedance. A review of the plant operations undertaken indicated that the treatment processes were operating normally during the time leading up to the detection.</p>	



## 2. Supply on the Remedial Action List

	Answer
2.1 Is the Action Programme on track to meet the Remedial Action List completion date?	Yes
<b>Comment</b>	
<p>1. Uisce Éireann provided an interim progress report on the RAL upgrade works for the WTP.</p> <p>The main work items completed at the water treatment plant are summarised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Installation of tube settlers in clarification tanks;</li><li>• Raw water pH correction;</li><li>• Media replacement and installation of filter floors in rapid gravity sand filters;</li></ul> <p>The main work items to be completed at the water treatment plant are summarised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Completion of flocculation tanks;</li><li>• New backwashing system;</li><li>• Run to waste system;</li><li>• All plant control upgrades.</li></ul> <p>Uisce Éireann stated at present the Action Programme is on track to meet the Remedial Action List completion date of June 2025.</p>	

## Recommendations

<b>Subject</b>	Audit Recommendations	<b>Due Date</b>	13/06/2024
<b>Action Text</b>	<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. Complete the plant upgrade works as per the Remedial Action Programme completion date of June 2025.</li><li>2. Continue to monitor the supply in accordance with Uisce Éireann's Rationale for Monitoring the Frequency of Cryptosporidium in Public Water Supplies.</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 13/06/2024 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>		