

Whitehillocks Regulation Zone, East Region

13 September 2016

DWQR Staff Present

Bill Byers

Scottish Water Staff Present

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Summary of Inspection

Overall Summary

An audit on aspects of the operation and maintenance of Service Reservoirs in the Whitehillocks distribution system, taking in Laurencekirk Service Reservoir and supply zone.

Number of Findings: 0

Quality of Water

Laurencekirk Service Reservoir experienced two separate failures of the Total Coliforms microbiological standard in 2015 which raised some concern over integrity of the tank. There have been no further failures at the tank since November 2015. Otherwise there are very minor levels of consumer concern with water quality in the zone.

Asset Robustness

Excavations had been made around the edge of the tank to prevent possibility of ingress and as a result, ground maintenance was not evident. Security aspects were appropriate with padlocked access gates to the site and padlocked covers within the site. Access covers inspected had a good seal against ingress around the lids and insect screens were in good order.

Operational Practices

There is good evidence of investigation of the potential causes of sample failures at the Service Reservoir and appropriate remedial actions have been identified and interim measures put in place to protect water quality. Ops staff view weekly reports of all SR chlorine levels and a monthly system overview illustrates any geographical areas or SRs of concern. DWQR recognises this as an example of best practice. The necessary controls around valve operations for water mains repairs were shown to be in place and training records were valid.

Management of Risk

Telemetry is active for the site and there are few occasions where alarms are generated. Key valves are well identified by paint and valve markers. The requirements for management of the operation of zone boundary valves in the distribution system were shown to be in place and effective.

Recording Information

Information of pipe layout, valve locations and status is maintained in the field GIS system accessible to any NSO required to attend the SRs or network. There was good example of record keeping in the site diary.

Water Safety Plan

There are two specific interventions for the Service Reservoir identified in the Water Safety Plan, addressing the replacement of part of the water main feeding the tank and the possible replacement of the tank itself.