

Ardfern WTW, Argyll

24 November 2009

Inspection Report

Overall Summary

This is a modern membrane treatment works, serving a small west coast community. Water quality produced was very good and the works was well operated. The few issues that were raised were mainly in connection with final water monitoring. Some good progress has been made in developing and implementing the drinking water safety plan for the works.

Number of Findings: 9

Score (out of 6)

Quality of Water Produced 5 **Very good**

The quality of water produced by this works is very good, with no major issues found during the audit.

Robustness of Treatment Asset 4 **Good**

As a process for treating water, membranes are very robust and this plant is no exception. All processes are appropriate to the quality of raw water received by the site.

Operational Practices 4 **Good**

Staff were knowledgeable about their plant and were taking pride in its operation. Operational practices were mainly very good, with few issues noted.

Maintenance of Asset 4 **Good**

The works was generally well maintained, although there were a few issues with maintenance of monitoring instrumentation, and the lack of routine maintenance of critical pumps

Safeguards and Procedures 4 **Good**

The works generally had monitoring equipment appropriate to water quality and the process that was present. Appropriate integrity testing of the membrane was being undertaken. Some final water quality instrumentation was in need of repair and the final water sample tap would benefit from being re-sited and labelled with a flush time to enable representative samples of final water to be taken.

Water Safety Plan Development and Implementation 4 **Good**

The Drinking Water safety plan for this site has been prepared carefully with most risks considered and good progress has been made in identifying and implementing interventions, subject to the constraints of the investment planning process. A few risks identified did not make sense when discussed with operational staff and it is unclear whether they were included in error or simply in need of better explanation.