

Tarbert WTW, Argyll

23 November 2009

Summary of Inspection

Overall Summary

This plant supplies the area around Tarbert in Kintyre. It is a traditional coagulation and filtration plant with disinfection, pH control and dosing to control plumbosolvency. The water quality produced is very good, however a number of deficiencies of varying severity were noted and these should be addressed without delay. Of particular concern was the clear water storage tank, which must be improved with immediate effect, otherwise DWQR will take enforcement action.

Number of Findings: 19

Score (out of 6)

Quality of Water Produced

4 Good

Water quality produced by this site is generally very good, with almost no failures of the regulatory standards

Robustness of Treatment Asset

3 Adequate

The treatment process at the site is appropriate for the raw water quality, although certain aspects are showing their age and some design flaws are evident. The site has limited automation, with the chemical handling in particular being very labour intensive.

Operational Practices

3 Adequate

Staff are highly trained and have a good understanding of water quality and how the plant operates, making appropriate interventions to the process as and when required. A little more attention to detail in the areas of chemical storage and task scheduling would be beneficial.

Maintenance of Asset

2 Weak

The plant is showing its age and many parts of the process would benefit from increased maintenance. A number of key instruments and standby dosing pumps were not present or operational at the time of the visit, although generally this was in hand. The Clear Water Tank required attention and DWQR has threatened enforcement action unless substantial improvements are made immediately.

Safeguards and Procedures

3 Adequate

Water quality monitors were appropriate for the site, although some were in need of repair and calibration. Most processes had appropriate alarms and relevant procedures were generally in place.

Water Safety Plan Development and Implementation

4 Good

The Water Safety Plan for this site is comprehensive and competently assesses the risks. It is important that the control measures are validated and that the findings are now translated into an improvement plan for the site.