

Roberton WTW, Borders

8 November 2011

DWQR Staff Present

Sue Petch, Bill Byers, Eleanor Vance, Matt Bower

Scottish Water Staff Present (& Titles)

Ian Skilling (Regional Mgr), Gary Guthrie (Team Mgr), Mick Jones (Team Leader), Jackie Foster (Regulation);
Graeme McIlroy (asset planner), Findlay Donaldson (Process Scientist); Mike Baird (PHT)

Summary of Inspection

Overall Summary

Roberton is a medium sized water treatment works supplying the town of Hawick and surrounding area in the Scottish Borders. The works is performing satisfactorily and treats water from Alemoor Reservoir to a high standard, occasionally supplemented by water from a number of other sources. The works is showing its age but is generally well maintained. Capital investment has resulted in a number of improvements to the process , although it was evident that these were not performing as effectively as they should be.

Number of Findings: 4

Score (out of 6)

Quality of Water Produced

4 Good

The quality of water supplied by the works is very good, although a number of exceedences of the manganese standard have occurred as a result of naturally occurring manganese not being removed by the treatment process.

Robustness of Treatment Asset

4 Good

The treatment process at Roberton is fundamentally robust although it does not have the capability to remove manganese. The capital improvement work to the clarification process has yet to deliver the full extent of the expected benefits, which is disappointing, although work is ongoing. DWQR considers that a number of features that should have been included as part of the new clarifiers are absent. The building itself is not currently in a very good state of repair, although work is in hand to improve this.

Operational Practices

4 Good

Staff are highly competent and have a good understanding of the treatment process, including ways in which it could be improved. The necessary checks and optimisation of the treatment process were being carried out.

Maintenance of Asset

4 Good

Key maintenance tasks appeared to be being undertaken, although the building itself was showing some wear. Maintenance was being well recorded in the site diary.

Safeguards and Procedures

4 Good

Treatment process had appropriate alarmed monitors, although the single turbidity monitor on the combined clarified water stream makes it impossible to distinguish individual clarifier performance.

Water Safety Plan Development and Implementation

not audited

Findings		Type	Included in updated DWSP?	% Complete & Date
4.1	Review provision for monitoring quality and performance of new clarifiers, including options for automatic blanket monitoring and improving resolution of turbidity data from the process.			
4.2	Address issue of access to top of clarifier in icy weather			
11.1	Investigate standards and specifications for SCADA systems when new processes are added to existing works, specifically whether having two separate systems for new and old plant presents an unacceptable risk to operation and water quality			
11.2	Resolve interference between final water total chlorine monitor signal and supernatant return pump			