

Windyfield WTW, Rhynie Cryptosporidium Failure 8 January 2010

DWQR Inspector:
John Littlejohn

Summary of Incident

Due to inadequate insulation and heating of the treatment building the filters used to remove cryptosporidium oocysts from the water froze on 8th January 2010, during a period of adverse weather conditions. The result was restricted flow through the works leading to loss of supply.

DWQR Assessment of Cause of Incident

The situation was remedied by bypassing the filters and running disinfected water straight into supply. Due to continuing adverse weather, difficulty in accessing the site and a number of technical problems full treatment was not restored until 23rd April.

Throughout the incident communication was maintained with the relevant health authorities. Regular cryptosporidium samples were taken of the water passing to supply, and while oocysts were detected, they remained at relatively low concentrations.

DWQR Assessment of Actions Taken by Scottish Water

Scottish Water took appropriate action and since the incident, it has improved the insulation and heating of the treatment building and re-routed the raw water pipework to provide it with a greater degree of insulation against frost. Scottish Water has plans to replace the works by introducing a new supply from an adjacent area.