



Drinking Water Quality Regulator
for Scotland

Incident Assessment

Gairloch WTW
Disinfection Failure
September 2010

DWQR Inspector:
John Littlejohn

Summary of Incident

At 20.20hrs the Senior Operative was contacted by the ICC to inform him of low chlorine residuals in the dosed and final water at Gairloch WTW. The operative arrived on site at 2100hrs and found that both chlorine pumps had tripped and stopped working. He could not get them restarted and called for ICAT assistance. In the short term he manually dosed the clear water tank with sodium hypochlorite which raised the chlorine levels from less than 0.1mg/l to over 0.5mg/l. The operative then left the site but returned at 05.50hrs 1st October to meet the ICAT technician. The technician located a burned out wire which was the root cause of the failure of the pumps and got the working again. It was later discovered that, due to two faulty fuses the signal from the works was not reaching the ICC. The fuses were replaced and the system operated as normal. Bacteriological samples taken over the duration of the incident indicated that bacteriological water quality was maintained throughout.

DWQR Assessment of Actions Taken by Scottish Water

The actions taken by Scottish Water were appropriate given the nature of the failure.