Annual Environmental Report

2024

Mountmellick

D0152-01

CONTENTS

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION TO THE 2024 AER

This Annual Environmental Report has been prepared for D0152-01, Mountmellick, in Laois in accordance with the requirements of the wastewater discharge licence for the agglomeration. Specified reports where relevant are included as an appendix to the AER.

1.1 ANNUAL STATEMENT OF MEASURES

A summary of any improvements undertaken is provided where applicable.

In 2024 installation works for P removal were substantially completed at the WwTP, with process proving being completed in Q1 2025.

1.2 TREATMENT SUMMARY

The agglomeration is served by a wastewater treatment plant(s)

- Mountmellick WWTP with a Plant Capacity PE of 7000, the treatment type is 3P - Tertiary P removal.

1.3 ELV OVERVIEW

The overall compliance of the final effluent with the Emission Limit Values (ELVs) is shown below. More detailed information on the below ELV's can be found in Section 2.

Discharge Point Reference	Treatment Plant	Discharge Type	Compliance Status	Parameters failing if relevant
TPEFF1600D0152SW001	Mountmellick WWTP	Treated	Non-Compliant	Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l

1.4 LICENCE SPECIFIC REPORTING

Assessment / Report
There are no Licence Specific Reports included in this AER.

2 TREATMENT PLANT PERFORMANCE AND IMPACT SUMMARY

2.1 MOUNTMELLICK WWTP - TREATED DISCHARGE

2.1.1 INFLUENT MONITORING SUMMARY - MOUNTMELLICK WWTP

A summary of influent monitoring for the treatment plant is presented below. This monitoring is primarily undertaken in order to determine the overall efficiency of the plant in removing pollutants from the raw wastewater.

Parameters	Number of Samples	Annual Max	Annual Mean
BOD, 5 days with Inhibition (Carbonaceous) mg/l	12	269	121
ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l	12	4.38	2.37
Suspended Solids mg/l	12	337	155
Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l	12	47	27
pH pH units	12	8.15	7.76
COD-Cr mg/l	12	766	382
Hydraulic Capacity	N/A	3745	1753

If other inputs in the form of sludge / leachate are added to the WWTP then these are included in Section 2.1.5 if applicable.

Significance of Results:

The annual mean hydraulic loading is less than the peak Treatment Plant Capacity. The annual maximum hydraulic loading is less than the peak Treatment Plant Capacity. Further details on the plant capacity and efficiency can be found under the sectional ‘Operational Performance Summary’.

2.1.2 EFFLUENT MONITORING SUMMARY - TPEFF1600D0152SW001

Parameter	WWDL ELV (Schedule A)	ELV with Condition 2 Interpretation included Note 1	Interim % reduction from influent concentration	Number of sample results	Number of exceedances	Number of exceedances with Condition 2 Interpretation included	Annual Mean	Overall Compliance (Pass/Fail)
COD-Cr mg/l	125	250	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	24	Pass
Suspended Solids mg/l	35	87.5	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	1.98	Pass
pH pH units	6	9	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	7.78	Pass
BOD, 5 days with Inhibition (Carbonaceous) mg/l	7	14	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	1.80	Pass
Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l	0.4	0.8	N/A	12	3	1	0.457	Fail
ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l	0.2	0.4	N/A	12	12	12	2.02	Fail

Notes:
1 – This represents the Emission Limit Values after the Interpretation provided for under Condition 2 of the licence is applied
2 – For pH the WWDA specifies a range of pH 6 - 9

Cause of Exceedance(s):

WwTP not Designed for P Removal.

Significance of Results:

The WWTP is non compliant with the ELV's set in the Wastewater Discharge Licence. The impact on receiving waters is assessed further in Section 2.

2.1.3 AMBIENT MONITORING SUMMARY FOR THE TREATMENT PLANT DISCHARGE TPEFF1600D0152SW001

A summary of monitoring from ambient monitoring points associated with the wastewater discharge is provided in the sections below. For discharges to rivers upstream (U/S) and downstream (D/S) location data is provided. For other ambient points in lakes, coastal or transitional waters, monitoring data from the most appropriate monitoring station is selected.

The table below provides details of ambient monitoring locations and details of any designations as sensitive areas.

Ambient Monitoring Point from WWDL (or as agreed with EPA)	Irish Grid Reference	River Station Code	Bathing Water	Drinking Water	FWPM	Shellfish	WFD Ecological Status
Upstream	245004, 207299	RS14O010220	No	No	No	No	Moderate
Downstream	245977, 208849	RS14O010300	No	No	No	No	Moderate

The table below provides a summary of monitoring results for designated ambient monitoring points. The upstream and downstream annual mean values are shown (mg/l), and the difference between both monitoring stations is given as a percentage of the Environmental Quality Standard (EQS) where relevant.

Parameter Name	Upstream Monitoring Point Location	Upstream Monitoring Point Annual Mean	Downstream Monitoring Point Location	Downstream Monitoring Point Annual Mean	EQS	% of EQS
BOD - 5 days (Total) mg/l	RS14O010220	1.55	RS14O010300	2.35	1.50	53.5
Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l	RS14O010220	0.041	RS14O010300	0.062	0.065	31.5

Parameter Name	Upstream Monitoring Point Location	Upstream Monitoring Point Annual Mean	Downstream Monitoring Point Location	Downstream Monitoring Point Annual Mean	EQS	% of EQS
ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l	RS14O010220	0.024	RS14O010300	0.040	0.035	44.3
Temperature °C	RS14O010220	11	RS14O010300	11	N/A	
Conductivity @25°C µS/cm	RS14O010220	420	RS14O010300	422	N/A	
Total Hardness (as CaCO3) mg/l	RS14O010220	209	RS14O010300	208	N/A	
pH pH units	RS14O010220	7.98	RS14O010300	7.82	N/A	
True Colour mg/litre Pt Co	RS14O010220	85	RS14O010300	88	N/A	
Dissolved Oxygen % Saturation	RS14O010220	99	RS14O010300	91	N/A	
Dissolved Oxygen mg/l	RS14O010220	11	RS14O010300	10	N/A	
Chloride mg/l	RS14O010220	14	RS14O010300	15	N/A	
Alkalinity-total (as CaCO3) mg/l	RS14O010220	191	RS14O010300	188	N/A	
Total Oxidised Nitrogen (as N) mg/l	RS14O010220	1.18	RS14O010300	1.53	N/A	

Significance of Results:

The WWTP discharge was not compliant with the ELV's set in the wastewater discharge licence for the following: Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l, ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l.

The ambient monitoring results do not meet the required EQS at the upstream and the downstream monitoring locations. The EQS relates to the Oxygenation and Nutrient Conditions set out in the Surface Water Regulations 2009.

Based on ambient monitoring results a deterioration in BOD, Ammonia & Ortho-P concentrations downstream of the effluent discharge is noted.

A deterioration in water quality has been identified, however it is not known if it or is not caused by the WWTP.

As per the 3rd Cycle Barrow Catchment Report (HA 14) the significant pressures listed for the At Risk Owenass_020 waterbody are Agriculture and Urban Wastewater.

The discharge from the wastewater treatment plant does not have an observable negative impact on the Water Framework Directive status.

2.1.4 OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE SUMMARY - MOUNTMELLICK WWTP

2.1.4.1 Treatment Efficiency Report - Mountmellick WWTP

Treatment efficiency is based on the removal of key pollutants from the influent wastewater by the treatment plant. In essence the calculation is based on the balance of load coming into the plant versus the load leaving the plant. The efficiency is presented as a percentage removal rate.

A summary presentation of the efficiency of the treatment process including information for all the parameters specified in the licence is included below:

Parameter	Influent mass loading (kg/year)	Effluent mass emission (kg/year)	Efficiency (% reduction of influent load)
SS	99152	1226	99
cBOD	77207	1115	99
COD	243632	14947	94

Note: The above data is based on sample results for the number of dates reported

2.1.4.2 Treatment Capacity Report Summary - Mountmellick WWTP

Treatment capacity is an assessment of the hydraulic (flow) and organic (the amount of pollutants) load a treatment plant is designed to treat versus the current loading of that plant.

Mountmellick WWTP	
Peak Hydraulic Capacity (m^3/day) - As Constructed	4200
DWF to the Treatment Plant (m^3/day)	1400
Current Hydraulic Loading - annual max (m^3/day)	3745
Average Hydraulic loading to the Treatment Plant (m^3/day)	1753
Organic Capacity (PE) - As Constructed	7000
Organic Capacity (PE) - Collected Load (peak week)[Note1]	5717
Organic Capacity (PE) - Remaining	1283
Will the capacity be exceeded in the next three years? (Yes/No)	No

Nominal design capacities can be based on conservative design principles. In some cases assessment of existing plants has shown organic capacities significantly higher than the nominal design capacity. Accordingly plants that appear to be overloaded when comparing a collected peak load with the nominal design capacity can be fully compliant due to the safety factors in the original design.

2.1.5 SLUDGE / OTHER INPUTS - MOUNTMELLICK WWTP

'Other inputs' to the waste water treatment plant are summarised in table below

Input type	Quantity	Unit	P.E.	% of load to WWTP	Included in Influent Monitoring (Y/N)?	Is there a leachate/sludge acceptance procedure for the WWTP?	Is there a dedicated leachate/sludge acceptance facility for the WWTP? (Y/N)
There is no Sludge and Other Input data for the Treatment Plant included in the AER.							

3 COMPLAINTS AND INCIDENTS

3.1 COMPLAINTS SUMMARY

A summary of complaints of an environmental nature related to the discharge(s) to water from the WWTP and network is included below.

Number of Complaints	Nature of Complaint	Number Open Complaints	Number Closed Complaints
There were no relevant environmental complaints in 2024.			

3.2 REPORTED INCIDENTS SUMMARY

Environmental incidents that arise in an agglomeration are reported on an on-going basis in accordance with our waste water discharge licences. Where an incident occurs and it is reportable under the licence, it is reported to the Environmental Protection Agency through their Environmental Data Exchange Network, or in some instances by telephone. Some incidents which arise in the agglomeration are recorded by Uisce Éireann but may not be reportable under our licence for example where the incident does not have an impact on environmental performance.

A summary of reported incidents is included below.

3.2.1 SUMMARY OF INCIDENTS

Incident Type	Cause	Recurring (Y/N)	Closed (Y/N)
Breach of ELV	WWTP not designed for P removal	Yes	No

3.2.2 SUMMARY OF OVERALL INCIDENTS

Question	Answer
Number of Incidents in 2024	1
Number of Incidents reported to the EPA via EDEN in 2024	1
Explanation of any discrepancies between the two numbers above	N/A

4 INFRASTRUCTURAL ASSESSMENTS AND PROGRAMME OF IMPROVEMENTS

4.1 STORM WATER OVERFLOW IDENTIFICATION AND INSPECTION REPORT

A summary of the operation of the storm water overflows and their significance where known is included below:

4.1.1 SWO IDENTIFICATION

WWDL Name / Code for Storm Water Overflow (chamber) where applicable	Irish Grid Ref. (outfall)	Included in Schedule of the WWDL	Significance of the overflow(High / Medium / Low)	Assessed against DoEHLG Criteria	No. of times activated in 2024 (No. of events)	Total volume discharged in 2024 (m^3)	Monitoring Status
SW2	245256, 208215	Yes	Low Significance	Meeting Criteria	Unknown	Unknown	Not Monitored
SW4	244981, 207304	Yes	Low Significance	Meeting Criteria	Unknown	Unknown	Not Monitored
SW5	245517, 207374	Yes	Low Significance	Meeting Criteria	Unknown	Unknown	Not Monitored

The contents presented in this table include the most up to date information available at the time of writing. Any TBC SWO(s) were identified as part of the on-going National SWO programme and will be updated in subsequent AER(s) once the information is confirmed.

SWO Summary	
How much wastewater discharge by metered SWOs during the year (m^3)?	Unknown
Is each SWO identified as not meeting DoEHLG Guidance included in the Programme of Improvements?	N/A

SWO Summary	
The SWO Assessment included the requirements of relevant of WWDL schedules?	Yes
Have the EPA been advised of any additional SWOs / changes to Schedule C3 and A4 under Condition 1.7?	N/A

4.2 REPORT ON PROGRESS MADE AND PROPOSALS BEING DEVELOPED TO MEET THE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME REQUIREMENTS

4.2.1 SPECIFIED IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME SUMMARY

A wastewater discharge licence may require a number of reports on specific subject areas to be prepared for the agglomeration in question. These reports are submitted to the EPA as part of the Annual Environmental Report. This section provides a list of the various reports required for this agglomeration and a brief summary of their recommendations.

Specified Improvement Programmes (under Schedule A and C of WWDL)	Description	Licence Schedule	Licence Completion Date	Date Expired? (N/NA/Y)	Status of Works	Timeframe for Completing the Work	Comments
D0152-SIP:01	Appropriate nutrient removal to ensure compliance with the ELVs specified in Schedule A of this licence	C	31/12/2019	Yes	Completed		

A summary of the status of any other improvements identified by under Condition 5 assessments- is included below.

4.2.2 IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME SUMMARY

Improvement Identifier	Improvement Description / or any Operational Improvements	Improvement Source	Expected Completion Date	Comments
No additional improvements planned at this time.				

4.2.3 SEWER INTEGRITY RISK ASSESSMENT

The utilisation of multiple capital maintenance programmes and the outputs of the workshops with the Local Authority Operations Staff held under the programme can be used to satisfy the requirements of Condition 5 regarding network integrity. Improvement works identified by way of these programmes and workshops will be included in the Improvements Summary Tables 4.2.1 and 4.2.2.

5 LICENCE SPECIFIC REPORTS

A wastewater discharge licence may require a number of reports on specific subject areas to be prepared for the agglomeration in question. These reports are submitted to the EPA as part of the Annual Environmental Report. This section provides a list of the various reports required for this agglomeration and a brief summary of their recommendations.

Licence Specific Report	Required by licence	Included in this AER
D0152-01-Priority Substances Assessment	Yes	No

6 CERTIFICATION AND SIGN OFF

6.1 SUMMARY OF AER CONTENTS

Parameter	Answer
Does the AER include an Executive Summary?	Yes
Does the AER include an assessment of the performance of the Waste Water Works (i.e. have the results of assessments been interpreted against WWDL requirements and or Environmental Quality Standards)?	Yes
Is there a need to advise the EPA for Consideration of a Technical Amendment/Review of the Licence?	No
List reason e.g. additional SWO identified	N/A
Is there a need to request/advise the EPA of any modification to the existing WWDL with respect to condition 4 changes to monitoring location, frequency etc	Yes
List reason e.g. changes to monitoring requirements	Ambient Monitoring Location Changes
Have these processes commenced?	No
Are all outstanding reports and assessments from previous AERs included as an appendix to this AER	N/A

I certify that the information given in this Annual Environmental Report is truthful, accurate and complete:

Date: 27/04/2025

This AER has been produced by Uisce Éireann's Environmental Information System (EIMS) and has been electronically signed off in that system for and on behalf of,

Eleanor Roche

Head of Environmental Regulation.

7 APPENDIX

There are no Appendices included.