

Annual Environmental Report

2020



Loughrea

D0194-01

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1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION TO THE 2020 AER

This Annual Environmental Report has been prepared for D0194-01, Loughrea, in Galway 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.

There were no major capital or operational changes undertaken in 2020.

1.2 TREATMENT SUMMARY

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

- Loughrea WWTP - 2020 with a Plant Capacity PE of 9500, 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
TPEFF1200D0194SW001	Loughrea WWTP - 2020	Treated	Non-Compliant	Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l BOD, 5 days with Inhibition (Carbonaceous BOD) mg/l ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l

1.4 LICENCE SPECIFIC REPORTING INCLUDED IN AER

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

2 TREATMENT PLANT PERFORMANCE AND IMPACT SUMMARY

2.1 LOUGHREA WWTP - 2020 - TREATED DISCHARGE

2.1.1 INFLUENT MONITORING SUMMARY - LOUGHREA WWTP - 2020

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
COD-Cr mg/l	12	2024	605.13
Suspended Solids mg/l	12	898	359.14
BOD, 5 days with Inhibition (Carbonaceous BOD) mg/l	12	681	210.59
Hydraulic Capacity	N/A	8858	4142

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 greater 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 - TPEFF1200D0194SW001

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 with Condition 2 Interpretation included	Annual Mean	Overall Compliance (Pass/Fail)
COD-Cr mg/l	125	250	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	19.36	Pass
Suspended Solids mg/l	25	62.5	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	5.87	Pass
pH pH units	9	9	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	7.51	Pass
BOD, 5 days with Inhibition (Carbonaceous BOD) mg/l	3	6	N/A	12	2	1	2.38	Fail
Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l	0.2	0.24	N/A	12	1	1	0.39	Fail
ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l	0.1	0.2	N/A	12	4	4	0.15	Fail

Notes:

1 – This represents the Emission Limit Values after the Interpretation provided for under Condition 2 of the licence is applied

Cause of Exceedance(s):

WWTP not designed for nutrient removal and Plant or Equipment Breakdown.

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 TPEFF1200D0194SW001

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 Status
Upstream	162239, 217796	RS29K010100	No	No	No	No	Unassigned
Downstream	158001, 219745	RS29K010200	No	No	No	No	Poor

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	RS29K010100	1.572	RS29K010200	1.432	1.5	-9.4
Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l	RS29K010100	0.041	RS29K010200	0.086	0.065	67.9
ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l	RS29K010100	0.014	RS29K010200	0.037	0.035	64.1
Nitrite (as N) µg/l	RS29K010100	12.033	RS29K010200	19.776		

Parameter Name	Upstream Monitoring Point Location	Upstream Monitoring Point Annual Mean	Downstream Monitoring Point Location	Downstream Monitoring Point Annual Mean	EQS	% of EQS
Dissolved Oxygen mg/l	RS29K010100	10.2	RS29K010200	11		
Conductivity @25°C µS/cm	RS29K010100	364.333	RS29K010200	521.667		
True Colour mg/litre Pt Co	RS29K010100	16	RS29K010200	17.333		
Nitrate (as N) mg/l	RS29K010100	0.23	RS29K010200	0.993		
Total Oxidised Nitrogen (as N) mg/l	RS29K010100	0.24	RS29K010200	1.013		
Suspended Solids mg/l	RS29K010100	4.152	RS29K010200	7.018		
Temperature °C	RS29K010100	13.814	RS29K010200	13.757		
Alkalinity-total (as CaCO3) mg/l	RS29K010100	162	RS29K010200	244.333		
Chloride mg/l	RS29K010100	17.2	RS29K010200	20.567		
Dissolved Oxygen % Saturation	RS29K010100	102	RS29K010200	106.333		
Total Hardness (as CaCO3) mg/l	RS29K010100	173.667	RS29K010200	261.667		
pH pH units	RS29K010100	8.029	RS29K010200	7.929		

Significance of Results:

The WWTP discharge was not compliant with the ELV's set in the wastewater discharge licence.

The ambient monitoring results does not meet the required EQS. 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 Total Ammonia and Ortho Phosphate , 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.

Other causes of deterioration in water quality in the area are unknown.

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 - LOUGHREA WWTP - 2020

2.1.4.1 Treatment Efficiency Report - Loughrea WWTP - 2020

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)
cBOD	343082	3506	99
SS	585105	8662	99
TN	N/A	N/A	N/A
TP	N/A	N/A	N/A
COD	985866	28547	97

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

2.1.4.2 Treatment Capacity Report Summary - Loughrea WWTP - 2020

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.

Loughrea WWTP - 2020	
Peak Hydraulic Capacity (m ³ /day) - As Constructed	6000
DWF to the Treatment Plant (m ³ /day)	2000
Current Hydraulic Loading - annual max (m ³ /day)	8858
Average Hydraulic loading to the Treatment Plant (m ³ /day)	4142
Organic Capacity (PE) - As Constructed	9500
Organic Capacity (PE) - Collected Load (peak week) ^{Note1}	7238
Organic Capacity (PE) - Remaining	2262
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 - LOUGHREA WWTP - 2020

'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)
Domestic /Septic Tank Sludge	300	Volume (m3)	0.36	0.02	No	No	No

3 COMPLAINTS AND INCIDENTS

3.1 COMPLAINTS SUMMARY

A summary of complaints of an environmental nature is included below.

Number of Complaints	Nature of Complaint	Number Open Complaints	Number Closed Complaints
There were no relevant environmental complaints in 2020.			

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 Irish Water 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	No. of incident occurrences	Recurring (Y/N)	Closed (Y/N)
Uncontrolled release	Broken Sewer Pipe	1	No	Yes
Breach of ELV	WWTP not designed for P removal	1	Yes	No
Abatement Equipment offline	Plant or equipment breakdown at WWTP	1	No	Yes

Incident Type	Cause	No. of incident occurrences	Recurring (Y/N)	Closed (Y/N)
Breach of ELV	Plant or equipment breakdown at WWTP	1	No	No

3.2.2 SUMMARY OF OVERALL INCIDENTS

Question	Answer
Number of Incidents in 2020	4
Number of Incidents reported to the EPA via EDEN in 2020	4
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	Irish Grid Ref.	Included in Schedule A4 of the WWDL	Significance of the overflow(High / Medium / Low)	Assessed against DoEHLG Criteria	No. of times activated in 2020 (No. of events)	Total volume discharged in 2020 (m3)	Monitoring Status
SW002	162261, 216700	Yes	Medium	Not yet Assessed	Unknown	Unknown	Not Monitored
SW003	162233, 218607	Yes	Medium	Meeting	Unknown	Unknown	Not Monitored

SWO Summary	
How much sewage was discharged via SWOs in the agglomeration in the year (m3)?	Unknown
Is each SWO identified as not meeting DoEHLG Guidance included in the Programme of Improvements?	N/A
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 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
D0194-SIP:01	Complete improvements to comply with ELVs specified in Schedule A: Discharges and Discharge Monitoring. Implement in accordance with Condition 5.6.1, either (a) improvements to the existing waste water works to achieve compliance with the emission limit values specified in Schedule A.1: Primary Waste Water Discharge & Monitoring of this licence, or (b) an alternative primary discharge point, or (c) connection to another agglomeration.	C	31/12/2019	Yes	Not Started		Capital works not funded in RC3. Capital works funding post 2024 will be contingent on the project being included in the 2025-2029 investment period.
D0194-SIP:02	Improvement works to ensure compliance with Condition 1.7	C	31/12/2019	Yes	At Planning Stage		Capital works not funded in RC3. Capital works funding post 2024 will be contingent on

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
							the project being included in the 2025-2029 investment period.

A summary of the status of any improvements identified by under Condition 5.2 is included below.

4.2.2 IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME SUMMARY

Improvement Identifier	Improvement Description / or any Operational Improvements	Improvement Source	Expected Completion Date	Comments
D0194-IP:78	Refurbishment of Inlet Screen	Improved Operational Control	31/05/2021	In Process

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 Table.

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 list of the various reports required for this agglomeration and a brief summary of their recommendations.

5.a Licence Specific Reports Summary Table

Licence Specific Report	Required by licence	Year included in AER	Included in this AER	Reference to relevant section of AER
Priority Substances Assessment	Yes	2015	No	

5.1 PRIORITY SUBSTANCES ASSESSMENT

The Priority Substances Assessment Report has been included in the AER 2015

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	No
List reason e.g. changes to monitoring requirements	N/A
Have these processes commenced?	N/A
Are all outstanding reports and assessments from previous AERs included as an appendix to this AER	Yes

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

Signed: Date: 06/05/2021

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

Katherine Walshe

Acting Head of Environmental Regulation.

7 APPENDIX

Appendix
Appendix 7.1 - Other

Loughrea WWTP - Additional Effluent pH readings

Taken at the plant by online monitor

Number of Additional pH readings in 2020	Average pH of these readings	Max pH	Min pH
298	6.54	6.84	6.29