

Annual Environmental Report

2022



Kells

D0127-01

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Revision Number	Description of Change	Date of Approval
1	Changes to section 2.1.3 Ambient Monitoring Changes to section 4.1.1 SWO	21/03/2024

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION TO THE 2022 AER

This Annual Environmental Report has been prepared for D0127-01, Kells, in Meath 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 capital works, significant changes or operational changes undertaken in 2022.

1.2 TREATMENT SUMMARY

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

- Kells (Meath) WWTP with a Plant Capacity PE of 9800, 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
TPEFF2300D0127SW001	Kells (Meath) WWTP	Treated	Non-Compliant	Ammonia-Total (as N) 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 KELLS (MEATH) WWTP - TREATED DISCHARGE

2.1.1 INFLUENT MONITORING SUMMARY - KELLS (MEATH) 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
COD-Cr mg/l	12	961	637
ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l	6	4.30	3.64
Suspended Solids mg/l	12	417	257
BOD, 5 days with Inhibition (Carbonaceous BOD) mg/l	12	436	250
Total Nitrogen mg/l	12	66	38
Total Phosphorus (as P) mg/l	12	8.99	6.44
Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l	6	33	26
Hydraulic Capacity	N/A	6482	2538

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 - TPEFF2300D0127SW001

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	26	Pass
Suspended Solids mg/l	35	88	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	10	Pass
BOD, 5 days with Inhibition (Carbonaceous BOD) mg/l	25	50	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	4.33	Pass
pH pH units	6.00	9.00	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	7.26	Pass
Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l	2.00	2.40	N/A	12	1	1	0.721	Fail
ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l	1.00	1.20	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	0.271	Pass
Conductivity @25°C µS/cm	N/A	N/A	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	678	

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)
Total Phosphorus (as P) mg/l	N/A	N/A	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	0.380	
Total Nitrogen mg/l	N/A	N/A	N/A	6	N/A	N/A	7.91	

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):

Plant or equipment calibration at WWTP.

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 TPEFF2300D0127SW001

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	273697, 277272	RS07B011200	No	Yes	No	No	Good
Downstream	276189, 275984	RS07B011300	No	Yes	No	No	Good

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	RS07B011200	1.28	RS07B011300	1.28	1.50	0.2
Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l	RS07B011200	0.020	RS07B011300	0.031	0.065	17.9
ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l	RS07B011200	0.037	RS07B011300	0.037	0.035	-1
Temperature °C	RS07B011200	14	RS07B011300	11	N/A	

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 % Saturation	RS07B011200	101	RS07B011300	91	N/A	
Chloride mg/l	RS07B011200	18	RS07B011300	19	N/A	
Nitrite (as N) µg/l	RS07B011200	9.13	RS07B011300	9.24	N/A	
Total Nitrogen mg/l	RS07B011200	2.20	RS07B011300	2.33	N/A	
Total Hardness (as CaCO3) mg/l	RS07B011200	94	RS07B011300	106	N/A	
Alkalinity-total (as CaCO3) mg/l	RS07B011200	84	RS07B011300	94	N/A	
Dissolved Oxygen mg/l	RS07B011200	11	RS07B011300	9.80	N/A	
Total Oxidised Nitrogen (as N) mg/l	RS07B011200	1.16	RS07B011300	1.29	N/A	
Conductivity @25°C µS/cm	RS07B011200	263	RS07B011300	276	N/A	
pH pH units	RS07B011200	7.95	RS07B011300	7.79	N/A	
Nitrate (as N) mg/l	RS07B011200	1.16	RS07B011300	1.26	N/A	
True Colour mg/litre Pt Co	RS07B011200	40	RS07B011300	40	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.

The ambient monitoring results do not meet the required EQS for Ortho-Phosphate at the upstream and 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 slight deterioration in Ammonia concentrations downstream of the effluent discharge is noted, however remains significantly below the EQS.

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

As per the 3rd Cycle Draft Boyne Catchment Report (HA 07), the significant pressures on this At Risk Blackwater (Kells)_110 waterbody are Agriculture and Hydromorphology

It is unknown if the wastewater treatment plant is having an observable negative impact on the Water Framework Directive status.

2.1.4 OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE SUMMARY - KELLS (MEATH) WWTP

2.1.4.1 Treatment Efficiency Report - Kells (Meath) 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	236513	7964	97
COD	587146	20120	97
cBOD	230546	3325	99
TP	5934	292	95

Parameter	Influent mass loading (kg/year)	Effluent mass emission (kg/year)	Efficiency (% reduction of influent load)
TN	35279	5622	84

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

2.1.4.2 Treatment Capacity Report Summary - Kells (Meath) 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.

Kells (Meath) WWTP	
Peak Hydraulic Capacity (m ³ /day) - As Constructed	5400
DWF to the Treatment Plant (m ³ /day)	1800
Current Hydraulic Loading - annual max (m ³ /day)	6482
Average Hydraulic loading to the Treatment Plant (m ³ /day)	2538
Organic Capacity (PE) - As Constructed	9800
Organic Capacity (PE) - Collected Load (peak week) ^{Note1}	8155
Organic Capacity (PE) - Remaining	1645
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 - KELLS (MEATH) 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
2	Discharge to waters	0	2

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	No. of incident occurrences	Recurring (Y/N)	Closed (Y/N)
Abatement Equipment offline	Other	1	No	Yes
Abatement Equipment offline	Dosing pump failure or maintenance at WWTP	1	No	Yes
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)
Abatement Equipment offline	Plant or equipment breakdown at WWTP	1	No	Yes
Abatement Equipment offline	Dosing pump failure or maintenance at WWTP	1	No	No
Breach of ELV	Plant or equipment calibration at WWTP	1	No	Yes
Other	EO caused by power failure	1	No	Yes
Spillage	Plant or equipment breakdown at WWTP	1	No	No
Uncontrolled release	EO caused by ragging or blocking	1	No	Yes
Uncontrolled release	EO caused by ragging or blocking	1	No	No

3.2.2 SUMMARY OF OVERALL INCIDENTS

Question	Answer
Number of Incidents in 2022	10
Number of Incidents reported to the EPA via EDEN in 2022	10
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 2022 (No. of events)	Total volume discharged in 2022 (m ³)	Monitoring Status
SW2	275199, 276285	Yes	Low Significance	Meeting Criteria	Unknown	Unknown	Not Monitored
SW3	274667, 276080	Yes	Low Significance	Not Meeting Criteria	Unknown	Unknown	Not Monitored

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 sewage was discharged via monitored SWOs in the agglomeration in the year (m ³)?	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 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
D0127-SIP:01	Upgrade to Phosphorus removal system	A	31/12/2014	Yes	Works Completed		
D0127-SIP:02	Upgrading of Storm Water Overflow SW3 to comply with the criteria outlined in the DoEHLG "Procedures and Criteria in relation to Storm Water Overflows, 1995"	A	31/12/2014	Yes	At Planning Stage	Preliminary Completion Date 2024+	UÉ in planning phase to decommission SW3 and provide storm water capacity at WWTP. Currently at Planning phase.

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	Year included in AER	Included in this AER
Drinking Water Abstraction Point Risk Assessment	Yes	2014	No
Priority Substances Assessment	Yes	2014	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: 28/02/2023

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,

Katherine Walshe

Acting Head of Environmental Regulation.

7 APPENDIX

There are no Appendices included.