

**From:** [Matthew Carroll](#)  
**Sent:** Friday 2 August 2024 18:54  
**To:** [Michaela Kirrane](#); [Roisin O'Callaghan](#); [Barry Fox](#); [Ronan Matson](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: WCC update on Aughrim River

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FYI

Matt

**Matthew Carroll**  
Fisheries Environmental Officer

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Inland Fisheries Ireland



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**From:** Jonathan Sexton <[JSexton@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:JSexton@wicklowcoco.ie)>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 2, 2024 6:25:00 PM  
**To:** Matthew Carroll <[Matthew.Carroll@fisheriesireland.ie](mailto:Matthew.Carroll@fisheriesireland.ie)>  
**Subject:** WCC update on Aughrim River

Hi Matt,

Just to keep IFI in the loop – see update to the EPA below.

Regards  
Jonathan

Jonathan Sexton  
Executive Scientist  
Pollution Control Section  
Climate, Environment, Recreation and Amenity  
Wicklow County Council  
0404-20100

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**From:** Marc Devereux  
**Sent:** Friday 2 August 2024 16:11  
**To:** Brian Meaney  
**Cc:** Brendan Kissane; Gillian Eustace; Theresa O'Brien; Brian Gleeson; Tom Griffin; Jonathan Sexton  
**Subject:** RE: Aughrim River

Thank you Brian,

Just to let you know of a few developments in relation to this.

1. We received a letter from Environmental Efficiency Consultants, Bray, County Wicklow indicating there had been a spill of chemicals to ground at the Woodfab premises in Aughrim.
2. We were asked by RTE to provide someone to be interviewed to which we responded as follows:

Wicklow County council's Pollution Control Team were made aware of a fish kill in the Aughrim River earlier this week. We have been in contact with our colleagues in other agencies such as the EPA, Inland Fisheries Ireland, HSE, etc. We carried out stream walks and surveys earlier in the week. To date our investigation has been inconclusive, but we understand the EPA and IFI are also carrying out investigations. We do not have staff on site today (Friday) and our staff are currently assessing information as it comes in from our colleague agencies.

It would not be appropriate for our staff to be interviewed at this stage as investigations are still ongoing.

3. On the advice of the HSE, we are issuing a do not consume notice to one premises with a regulated drinking water source and similar advice to 7 private households with water sourced from wells close to the Aughrim River. We will be carrying out tests next week in order to (hopefully) lift the notice as soon as possible.

Regards,  
Marc

**From:** Brian Meaney [mailto:B.Meaney@epa.ie]  
**Sent:** Thursday 1 August 2024 17:17  
**To:** Marc Devereux  
**Cc:** Brendan Kissane; Gillian Eustace; Theresa O'Brien; Brian Gleeson; Tom Griffin; Jonathan Sexton  
**Subject:** RE: Aughrim River

Dear Marc,  
Thanks for coming back to me. I will address your questions as best I can.

There is a register of abstractions here: [EPA Water Abstraction Register - December 2023 | Environmental Protection Agency](#). This can be sorted by county. I will pass on any additional information I get on this and on the regulation of relevant drinking water supplies in the area.

The licensed installation where we're focusing our investigations is Woodfab Timber Limited, Aughrim, licence register P0358-01. Our inspectors did a site visit today (1 August) and Tuesday (30 July). Site visit reports will follow.

I understand the timber treatment chemical is Tanalith E. We should have the MSDS that the licensee holds for their specific product shortly, but a quick internet search will yield generic information on this blend of chemicals and their properties.

We took upstream and downstream samples from the Aughrim River today, that's relative to the location of the licensed installation. These will be sent for analysis for pesticides and heavy metals. I understand that IFI took samples earlier in the week or over the weekend and have sent them for analysis. I understand also that the operator of a fish farm near Woodenbridge also took samples and has dissolved oxygen and other data records kept. We spoke to BIM today who said they have taken fish tissue samples.

There are no scheduled emission points in the licence. I understand that stormwater at the installation is directed to a percolation area that is located adjacent to and above the river. After the chemical spill, the licensee has indicated that this percolation area has become contaminated, and this seems plausible. I understand that the percolation area has been decommissioned and isolated (see next paragraph) but in all likelihood remains a source of contaminants that could seep into the river.

The licensee has taken several steps on site this week to minimise the risk of discharge of chemical from the site. Stormwater will be diverted away from the percolation area and I understand that the affected area has been covered in concrete to protect it from rainfall infiltration. The stormwater network has been blocked in places to ensure that the percolation area is isolated from it. I will speak to our inspector later today or tomorrow about these works and their extent. I understand the licensee will take further actions in the coming days and weeks and this would be our expectation and we'll track matters closely.

I will keep you updated on our investigation and, in particular, what the licensee is doing to protect water quality. I would be grateful if you would please do likewise if you uncover new information that might be of use to the EPA.

Brian.

**Brian Meaney**  
Regional Manager | Licence Enforcement  
Office of Environmental Enforcement, Wexford  
Bainisteoir Réigiúnach | Forfheidhmí Ceadúnas  
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**From:** Marc Devereux <mdevereux@wicklowcoco.ie>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 1, 2024 3:36 PM  
**To:** Brian Meaney <B.Meaney@epa.ie>  
**Cc:** Brendan Kissane <B.Kissane@epa.ie>; Gillian Eustace <G.Eustace@epa.ie>; Theresa O'Brien <TOBrien@wicklowcoco.ie>; Brian Gleeson <BGleeson@wicklowcoco.ie>; Tom Griffin <TGriffin@wicklowcoco.ie>; Jonathan Sexton <JSexton@wicklowcoco.ie>  
**Subject:** FW: Aughrim River

Dear Brian,

I wish to acknowledge your email and request to inform stakeholders. The manager of the 3 fish farms downstream (which abstract from the Aughrim River) has been informed of the potential of contamination to reach the river should rainfall occur. He emphasized the need to stop the contamination reaching the river.

If the EPA, as host of the register of abstractions, is aware of other abstractions downstream or groundwater that could be affected, then could you please advise?

Can the EPA please confirm the name and license number of the premises you are investigating?

Are there any surface water discharge points from the facility to the Aughrim River and the location of same?

What are the active pesticides in the wood treatment product in question?

Have any pesticide samples been taken from any discharges on the site and from the Aughrim River to date?

We also contacted the Hotel at the confluence of the Aughrim River with the Goldmine River.

Can the EPA please advise if there is a risk to the small number of houses downstream that may have well water supplies?

Are there provisions in place to re-sample the Aughrim River during future rainfall events to check for pesticide pollution? The Met Eireann forecast for this Monday suggests a significant rainfall event is likely.

My mobile number is [REDACTED] if you would like to discuss,

Kind Regards,

Marc

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**From:** Brian Meaney <[B.Meaney@epa.ie](mailto:B.Meaney@epa.ie)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 31, 2024 3:41 PM

**To:** Environment - Published Address <[env@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:env@wicklowcoco.ie)>; Environment - Waste Enforcement <[enforcement@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:enforcement@wicklowcoco.ie)>; Theresa O'Brien <[TOBrien@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:TOBrien@wicklowcoco.ie)>; Brian Gleeson <[BGleeson@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:BGleeson@wicklowcoco.ie)>

**Cc:** Gillian Eustace <[G.Eustace@epa.ie](mailto:G.Eustace@epa.ie)>; Brendan Kissane <[B.Kissane@epa.ie](mailto:B.Kissane@epa.ie)>

**Subject:** Aughrim River

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For attention of Director of Services, Water Environment

Dear Director(s)

We wish to inform you of an incident that took place last Saturday 27 July 2024 where a potential spill of timber treatment chemicals containing pesticides took place. The EPA are investigating the potential source of this discharge at a licensed installation adjacent to the Aughrim River. Inland Fisheries Ireland are investigating a fish kill in the Aughrim River downstream of this installation.

Pending investigation and remediation works that may be needed to address any residual chemical in the ground, there is a risk of further discharge into the river at Aughrim in the event of rainfall in the coming days.

The EPA licensee has confirmed they are taking measures to minimise stormwater flow to the contaminated area in the short term thus reducing the risk of stormwater becoming contaminated and making its way into the Aughrim River.

It may be prudent for Wicklow County Council to inform its downstream stakeholders of the potential for contamination should a rainfall event occur.

The EPA's investigation continues and we have already visited the licensed installation this week – site visit report to follow. A further site visit is planned for later this week to verify the licensee's proposals and any works completed to date.

Should you require further information, please contact the undersigned in the first instance, or Brendan Kissane, at EPA Headquarters, Johnstown Castle, Co Wexford.

Kind regards

**Brian Meaney**  
Regional Manager | Licence Enforcement  
Office of Environmental Enforcement, Wexford  
Bainisteoir Réigiúnach | Forfheidhmiú Ceadúnas  
Oifig um Fhorfheidhmiú Comhshaoil, Loch Garman



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