

| Issue name   | Date raised  | Proposer                                  |   |  |                                     |                                       |                                       |                        |   |  |                           |                        |  |      |   |                     |  |   |    |
|--|--|---|---|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|---|--|---------------------------|------------------------|--|------|---|---------------------|--|---|----|
| Movement of manure/slurry  | 2021 (Updated Feb 2023)  | HSE/LAWPRO and LAs                        |   |  |                                     |                                       |                                       |                        |   |  |                           |                        |  |      |   |                     |  |   |    |
| Summary of the issue and its implications for achieving WFD objectives   |  |   |   |  |                                     |                                       |                                       |                        |   |  |                           |                        |  |      |   |                     |  |   |    |
| <p>There are potential gaps in control measures for the movement and management of manure and slurry which have been identified by HSE/LAs/LAWPRO. Organic manures can cause significant environmental and public health impacts and are of interest to a number of different public authorities, including the HSE and the Local Authorities.</p> <p>There are no data available to enable public authorities to determine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) where the manures are going,</li> <li>b) whether they are being used in appropriate locations in accordance with the regulations, and</li> <li>c) whether they are having impacts on public health and the environment.</li> </ul> <p>There is also a significant knowledge gap in the assessments of pressures impacting on the water environment (characterisation), and therefore it is unknown whether additional measures may be required.</p>   |  |   |   |  |                                     |                                       |                                       |                        |   |  |                           |                        |  |      |   |                     |  |   |    |
| Extent of the issue in the national context  |  |   |   |  |                                     |                                       |                                       |                        |   |  |                           |                        |  |      |   |                     |  |   |    |
| <p>Control systems focus on 3 areas: Source/Movement/End User. Gaps can arise when different organisations are responsible for different aspects of the process; data protection makes it hard to transfer information between organisations.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="352 1111 1310 1724"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th><i>Source responsible authority</i></th> <th><i>Movement responsible authority</i></th> <th><i>End user responsible authority</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>1. Sludge Waste</b></td> <td><sup>1</sup> Uisce Éireann, Local Authority and WERLA</td> <td>Uisce Éireann, Local Authority and WERLA</td> <td>Local Authority and WERLA</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>2. Intensive Ag</b></td> <td>EPA (Note; smaller installations may not be licensed by the EPA)</td> <td>DAFM</td> <td>DAFM (poultry litter) and LA (landspreading pig and poultry manure)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>3. Digestate</b></td> <td>EPA (Note; smaller installations may not be licensed by the EPA)</td> <td>DAFM (pasteurisation, storage, transport)</td> <td>LA</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(a) Cumulative impacts are undetermined; the current system affects the ICM approach to protection of waters, the assessments of pressures in priority and</p> |  |   |   |  | <i>Source responsible authority</i> | <i>Movement responsible authority</i> | <i>End user responsible authority</i> | <b>1. Sludge Waste</b> | <sup>1</sup> Uisce Éireann, Local Authority and WERLA | Uisce Éireann, Local Authority and WERLA | Local Authority and WERLA | <b>2. Intensive Ag</b> | EPA (Note; smaller installations may not be licensed by the EPA) | DAFM | DAFM (poultry litter) and LA (landspreading pig and poultry manure) | <b>3. Digestate</b> | EPA (Note; smaller installations may not be licensed by the EPA) | DAFM (pasteurisation, storage, transport) | LA |
|  | <i>Source responsible authority</i>                              | <i>Movement responsible authority</i>     | <i>End user responsible authority</i>                               |  |                                     |                                       |                                       |                        |   |  |                           |                        |  |      |   |                     |  |   |    |
| <b>1. Sludge Waste</b>   | <sup>1</sup> Uisce Éireann, Local Authority and WERLA            | Uisce Éireann, Local Authority and WERLA  | Local Authority and WERLA   |  |                                     |                                       |                                       |                        |   |  |                           |                        |  |      |   |                     |  |   |    |
| <b>2. Intensive Ag</b>   | EPA (Note; smaller installations may not be licensed by the EPA) | DAFM                                      | DAFM (poultry litter) and LA (landspreading pig and poultry manure) |  |                                     |                                       |                                       |                        |   |  |                           |                        |  |      |   |                     |  |   |    |
| <b>3. Digestate</b>  | EPA (Note; smaller installations may not be licensed by the EPA) | DAFM (pasteurisation, storage, transport) | LA  |  |                                     |                                       |                                       |                        |   |  |                           |                        |  |      |   |                     |  |   |    |

<sup>1</sup> Note, Service responsibility for the direct management of public water services will transfer from each individual Local Authority to Uisce Éireann on a phased basis during 2023, therefore, Uisce Éireann will have a greater role in the management of sludge waste.

non-priority areas for action, and the modelling of the nutrient source loads in catchments. It also has implications for drinking water source protection planning, and assessment of impacts to human health.

- (b) Current systems do not allow adequate checks and controls from source to end user.
- (c) Data protection may make it difficult to transfer information between organisations.
- (d) Under the revised Drinking Water Directive there is a requirement to do catchment risk assessments: spreading of materials where there is a parasite related load are of interest to several public bodies including the HSE
- (e) Rising nitrate in groundwaters is an issue - could potentially impact drinking water provision
- (f) No mechanism currently in place to give confidence to society that spreading requirements are in line with proper protocols and that human health and the environment are adequately protected.

| Knowledge gap  | Implementation gap  | Policy gap  |
|--|---|---|
| Tracking and transparency are key issues – we need to be sure that receiving land is suitable and not causing a risk to WFD outcomes or human health.  | Different organisations are responsible for different aspects of this process, which can lead to gaps in control mechanisms.<br>Bad practice has been identified and the fragmented regulatory regime creates scope for this. | For each type of waste, a clear policy with clear and coherent lines of responsibility through the entire chain of managing these substances is needed - focus on tracking/transparency will allow assessment analysis of these issue |
| <b>Suggested solution(s)</b>   |   | <b>Suggested actors</b>   |
| 1. Consider how the new DAFM reporting system may be able to assist with characterising locations, the scale of the issues, and the identification of catchments at risk due to large amounts of waste being landspread. Consider also whether and how information may be shared from this system to other bodies.   |   | DAFM/EPA Catchments   |
| 2. The current processes and control systems from source to end user should be mapped out in detail and gaps identified.   |   | LAs/ DAFM/EPA/Uisce Éireann - lead to be determined.  |
| 3. Engagement with LAs to encourage them to identify issues in their third cycle AFAS and possible catchment trial using DAFM data.  |   | LAWPRO/LAs  |
| Suggested champion   | Dependencies  | Priority  |
| tbc  |   |   |
| <b>Additional comments</b>   |   |   |
| A related issue of adequate management of the movement of sludges and digestates has also been raised as part of the consultation process for the review of the Nitrates Action Programme. A NIECE working group is being convened to look at the enforcement and compliance issues around inspections.<br>Is there merit in looking at all three issues in combination? |   |   |

|   |                |                          |
|---|----------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Agreed at the NTIG meeting</b>   |                |                          |
| Next steps  |                |                          |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NTIG will establish a working group to look at this issue</li> </ul> |                |                          |
| Champion  | Date discussed | Expected completion date |
|   |                |                          |
| <b>Progress review - tbd</b>  |                |                          |
|   |                |                          |

## Appendix – NTIG comments

### **HSE - potential health implications**

- (a) Microbial contamination of ground and surface water
- (b) Nutrient enrichment
- (c) There are 380k private well supplies in Ireland; 180k of these are not registered or tested.
- (d) As part of environmental health regulations, 1418 small private supplies are tested. These are generally associated with small food businesses so are subject to inspections by LAs. Annually, approximately 6% of these inspections show that the private supply is contaminated.
- (e) WHO documents are available on the implications of nitrate pollution of groundwater, which can be carcinogenic.

### **LAWPRO summary on LA and their experience:**

- (a) The high nutrient content means there is a potential risk to water quality from these products.
- (b) They can be moved both between counties and cross-border with NI – often being imported from NI.
- (c) Odour can be an issue, especially with digestate.
- (d) Bad practice, including fictitious documents and under-the-radar movements, and lack of accurate declarations on NMP statements.
- (e) IED licensing of intensive pigs and poultry focuses on facility, however the landbanks for spreading are outside this facility and hence the scope of IED licensing.
- (f) Not all drinking water abstraction points are mapped, and we use lots of surface water supplies for drinking water.
- (g) Fragmentation of governance and responsibility and associated difficulties with data sharing.

### **DAFM**

- a) Current control system is a Record 3 – this is currently a paper-based system recording exports from farmer A to farmer B. 16,000 forms are submitted annually; there is a significant administrative burden here and oversight is difficult with a paper system.

- b) An online tracking system has been developed and launched March 2021. Paper records will still be accepted to the end of July 2021; after that, all records must be submitted online via the AgFood portal. For 2021, derogation farmers must submit their record by 31/10/2021, all other farmers must submit theirs by 31/12/2021.
- c) Consultation with waste sludge operators and who handles regulations there is key.
- d) Agricultural use of sludges – is an urban pressure being transferred to rural areas?
- e) Shared responsibility required - no point licensing a digester and not taking account of digestate that may be causing an issue when it is landspread off site.

#### **ASSAP**

- a) Movement of bovines reasonably well recorded; pig and poultry less so and this can be problematic as it is concentrated geographically, and in areas where there is limited tillage lands to take these manures. This can lead to significant use of these manures in quite restricted areas; concerns about potential overuse and potential WQ impacts; scope in work DAFM have done to dramatically improve this.
- b) Concentration in Cavan Monaghan and potential for NI manure import are potential risks; substantial amounts could move across border if NI planning conditions there enforced.
- c) Potential for P loss in risky catchments; some research shows poultry and pig manure can be more easily impact WBs when compared to bovine.
- d) Spreading at right time key; storage capacity may be an issue too.

Table 2: Blank template

| <b><i>To be provided by the proposer</i></b>                           |                    |                          |
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