IF YOU ARE SEEING THIS PAGE, PLEASE NOTE:

As of June 2010, all permits having a fact sheet that are going through a modification will have posted in pdf format the modification fact sheet attached to the front of the previous renewal fact sheet.

FACT SHEETS ARE ON NEXT PAGE

If you have any questions regarding this, please contact the NPDES or PPU sections in the Division of Surface Water.

Attached are:

2PC00004*HD & ID

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Program

F A C T S H E E T

Regarding a Modification to an NPDES Permit To Discharge to Waters of the State of Ohio
for the Columbus Grove Wastewater Treatment Plant

Public Notice No.: 10-10-033
Public Notice Date: October 14, 2010
Comment Period Ends: November 12, 2010

OEPA Permit No.: 2PC00004*ID
Application No.: OH0024759

Name and Address of Applicant:

Village of Columbus Grove
113 East Sycamore
Columbus Grove, Ohio 45830

Name and Address of Facility Where Discharge Occurs:

Columbus Grove Wastewater Treatment Plant
300 Wayne Street
Columbus Grove, Ohio

Receiving Water: Plum Creek

Subsequent Stream Network: Ottawa River, Auglaize River, Maumee River, Lake Erie

Introduction

Development of a Fact Sheet for NPDES permits is mandated by Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 124.8 and 124.56. This document fulfills the requirements established in those regulations by providing the information necessary to inform the public of actions proposed by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, as well as the methods by which the public can participate in the process of finalizing those actions.

This Fact Sheet is prepared in order to document the technical basis and risk management decisions that are considered in the determination of water quality based NPDES Permit effluent limitations. The technical basis for the Fact Sheet may consist of evaluations of promulgated effluent guidelines, existing effluent quality, instream biological, chemical and physical conditions, and the relative risk of alternative effluent limitations. This Fact Sheet details the discretionary decision-making process empowered to the Director by the Clean Water Act and Ohio Water Pollution Control Law (ORC 6111). Decisions to award variances to Water Quality Standards or promulgated effluent guidelines for economic or technological reasons will also be justified in the Fact Sheet where necessary.

In accordance with the antidegradation rule, OAC 3745-1-05, the Director has determined that a lowering of water quality in Plum Creek is necessary. Provision (F)(2)(d) was applied to this application. This provision excludes the need for the submittal and subsequent review of technical alternatives and social and economic issues related to the degradation. Other rule provisions, however, including public participation and appropriate intergovernmental coordination were required and considered prior to reaching this decision.

Procedures for Participation in the Formulation of Final Determinations

The proposed modification is tentative but shall become final on the effective date unless (1) an adjudication hearing is requested, (2) the Director withdraws and revises the proposed modification after consideration of the record of a public meeting or written comments, or (3) upon disapproval by the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Within thirty (30) days of publication of this notice, any person may submit written comments, a statement as to why the proposed modification should be changed, a request for a public meeting on the proposed modification and/or a request for notice of further actions concerning the modification. All communications timely received will be considered in the final formulation of the modification. If significant public interest is shown a public meeting will be held prior to finalization of the modification.

Within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the proposed modification any officer of an agency of the state or of a political subdivision, acting in his representative capacity or any person aggrieved or adversely affected by issuance of it may request an adjudication hearing by submitting a written objection in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 3745.07. Since all other conditions of the permit remain in effect, a hearing may not be requested on any issues other than the proposed modification. If an adjudication hearing is requested, the existing NPDES permit will remain in effect until the hearing is resolved. Following the finalization of the modification by the Director, any person who was a party to an adjudication hearing may appeal to the Environmental Review Appeals Commission.

Requests for public meetings shall be in writing and shall state the action of the Director objected to, the questions to be considered, and the reasons the action is contested. Such requests should be addressed to:

Legal Records Section
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Lazarus Government Center
P.O. Box 1049
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments upon the proposed modification. Comments should be submitted in person or by mail no later than 30 days after the date of this Public Notice. Deliver or mail all comments to:

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Attention: Division of Surface Water
Permits and Compliance Section
Lazarus Government Center
P.O. Box 1049
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049

The OEPA permit number and Public Notice numbers should appear on each page of any submitted comments. All comments received no later than 30 days after the date of the Public Notice will be considered.

Citizens may conduct file reviews regarding specific companies or sites. Appointments are necessary to conduct file reviews, because requests to review files have increased dramatically in recent years. The first 250 pages copied are free. For requests to copy more than 250 pages, there is a five-cent charge for each page copied. Payment is required by check or money order, made payable to Treasurer State of Ohio.

For additional information about this fact sheet or the draft permit, contact Ryan Gierhart, (419) 373-3053, Ryan.Gierhart@epa.ohio.gov .

Location of Discharge/Receiving Water Use Classification

The Columbus Grove wastewater treatment plant discharges to Plum Creek at River Mile (RM) 12.80. Figure 1 shows the approximate location of the facility.

This segment of the Plum Creek is described by Ohio EPA River Code: 04-201, County: Putnam, Ecoregion: Huron/Erie Lake Plains. Plum Creek is designated for the following uses under Ohio's Water Quality Standards (OAC 3745-1-11): Warmwater Habitat (WWH), Agricultural Water Supply (AWS), Industrial Water Supply (IWS), and Class B Primary Contact Recreation (PCR).

Facility Description

The Columbus Grove wastewater treatment plant has an average daily design flow of 0.820 MGD (million gallons per day). Wet stream processes are screening and grit removal, flow equalization, primary settling, trickling filtration, final clarification, chlorination and dechlorination. Solid stream processes are anaerobic digestion and drying beds with final disposal of dried, stabilized sludge by land application at agronomic rates.

The Columbus Grove collection system is a combination of separate sanitary sewers and combined sewers. Four combined sewer overflows (CSOs) are regulated under the current permit. The permit includes a compliance schedule for the Village to implements its long-term CSO control plan that was approved by the Director on June 17, 2008.

No categorical industrial users or significant noncategorical industrial users discharge to the wastewater plant.

Description of Existing Discharge

Table 1 presents a summary of unaltered Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) data for outfall 2PC00004001. Data are presented for the period September 2005 through August 2010.

Basis of the Modification

The Village of Columbus Grove has applied for coverage under the general mercury variance, Rule 3745-33-07(D)(10) of the Ohio Administrative Code. Based on the results of low-level mercury monitoring, the permittee has determined that its wastewater treatment plant cannot meet the 30-day average water quality based effluent limit (WQBEL) of 1.3 nanograms per liter (ng/l). However, the permittee believes that the plant will be able to achieve an annual average mercury effluent concentration of 12 ng/l. The variance application also demonstrated to the satisfaction of Ohio EPA that there is no readily apparent means of complying with the WQBEL without constructing prohibitively expensive end-of-pipe controls for mercury. Based on these factors, the permittee is eligible for coverage under the general mercury variance.

Ohio EPA has reviewed the mercury variance application and has determined that it meets the requirements of the Ohio Administrative Code. As a result, Ohio EPA is proposing a modification to the NPDES permit. Mercury variance provisions are being added as Items Y, Z and AA in Part II of the NPDES permit. The following requirements have been included in the draft modification:

- A variance-based monthly average effluent limit of 73.1 ng/l, which was developed from sampling data submitted by the permittee;
- A requirement that the permittee make reasonable progress to meet the water-quality-based effluent limit for mercury by implementing the plan of study, which has been developed as part of the Pollutant Minimization Program (PMP);
- Low-level mercury monitoring of the plant's influent and effluent;

- A requirement that the annual average mercury effluent concentration is less than or equal to 12 ng/l as specified in the plan of study;
- A summary of the elements of the plan of study;
- A requirement to submit an annual report on implementation of the PMP; and
- A requirement for submittal of a certification stating that all permit conditions related to implementing the plan of study and the PMP have been satisfied, but that compliance with the monthly average water quality based effluent limit for mercury has not been achieved.

Other Changes

Escherichia coli Limits and Monitoring
E. coli limits have replaced fecal coliform limits at Outfall 001. At upstream and downstream Stations 801 and 901, *E. coli* monitoring has replaced fecal coliform monitoring.

Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) Monitoring and Reporting
In the Station 300 table for SSO reporting, the Measuring Frequency for Overflow Occurrence was changed from "When discharging" to "1/Month" to clarify the reporting requirements.

In Part II, Item G, the first paragraph was revised to read "All sanitary sewer overflows are prohibited.", which is consistent with the Station 300 table and current regulations.

Sludge Station 581
Monitoring for phosphorus and potassium has been added consistent with current rules.

Operator Certification, Operator of Record and Minimum Staffing
Updated requirements have been included in Part II, Item A of the permit to be consistent with rules adopted in December 2006. These rules require the Columbus Grove wastewater treatment plant to have a Class II wastewater treatment plant operator in charge of the sewage treatment plant operations discharging through outfall 001 . They also require the permittee to designate one or more operator of record to oversee the technical operation of the treatment works.

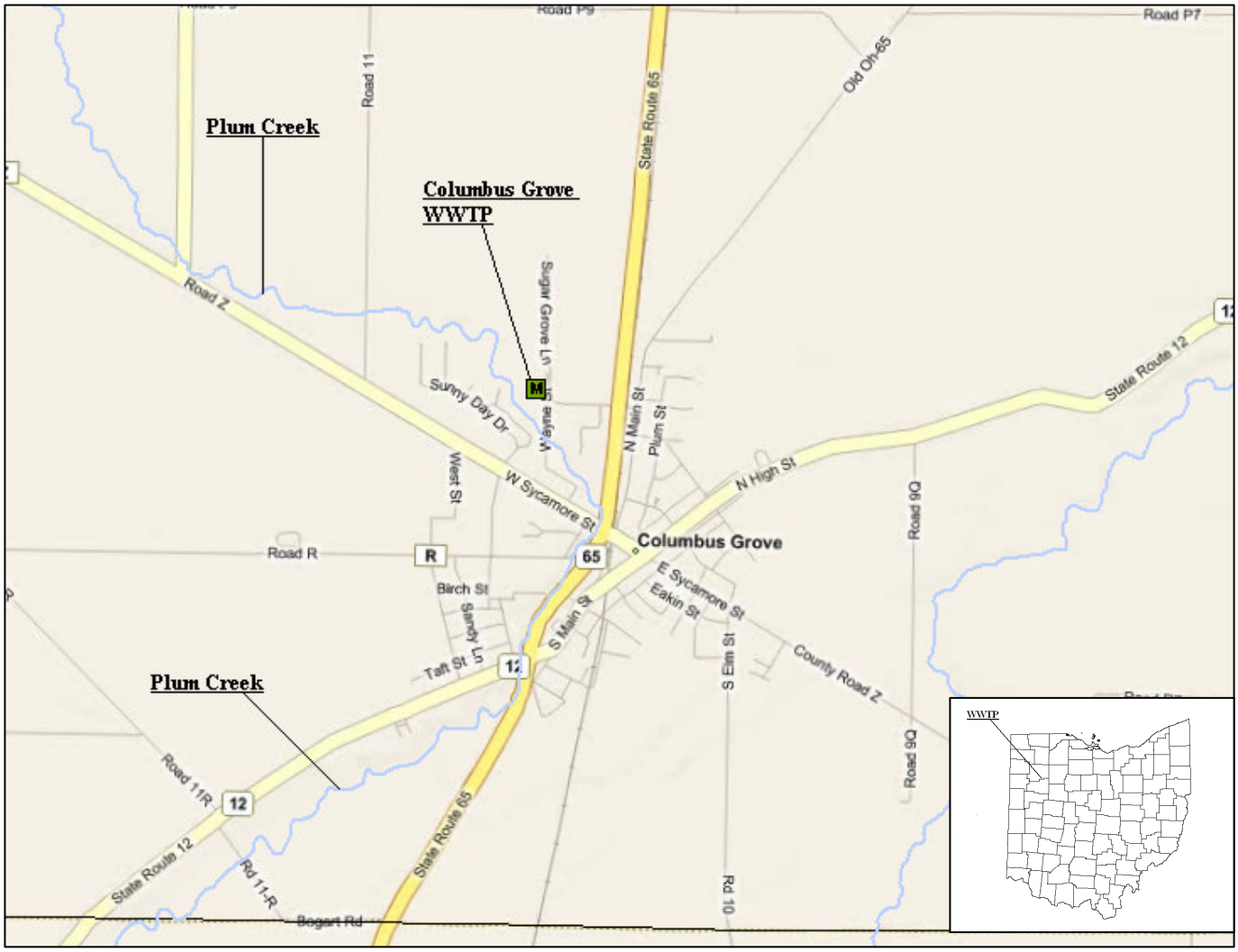

Figure 1. Location of the Columbus Grove wastewater treatment plant.

Table 1. Effluent Characterization Using Self-Monitoring Data

Summary of unaltered discharge monitoring report data for Columbus Grove outfall 2PC00004001 (September 2005 – August 2010). All values are based on annual records unless otherwise indicated.

Parameter	Season	Units	# Obs.	Percentiles		Data Range
				50th	95th	
Water Temperature	Annual	C	1274	13.9	21.6	0.8-25
Dissolved Oxygen	Summer	mg/l	658	8.12	9.79	0.71-11.1
Dissolved Oxygen	Winter	mg/l	609	10.2	12.5	6.12-14
pH	Annual	S.U.	1274	7.68	8.22	6.82-13.5
Total Suspended Solids	Annual	mg/l	462	7	16	4-35
Oil and Grease, Freon	Annual	mg/l	56	5	7.88	5-31.4
Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3)	Summer	mg/l	245	0.82	19	0.2-27.8
Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3)	Winter	mg/l	238	0.535	7.07	0.2-19.7
Nitrite Plus Nitrate, Total	Annual	mg/l	57	7.5	19.4	0.1-24.8
Phosphorus, Total (P)	Annual	mg/l	24	1.87	3.6	0.4-4.33
Phosphorous, Dissolved (P)	Annual	mg/l	33	1.14	2.91	0.28-3.98
Cyanide, Free	Annual	mg/l	1	0.01	0.01	0.01-0.01
Nickel, Total Recoverable	Annual	ug/l	7	8	8	8-8
Zinc, Total Recoverable	Annual	ug/l	8	37	43	21-44
Cadmium, Total Recoverable	Annual	ug/l	14	3	30	0.03-30
Lead, Total Recoverable	Annual	ug/l	14	10	80	10-80
Chromium, Total Recoverable	Annual	ug/l	8	7	7	7-7
Copper, Total Recoverable	Annual	ug/l	14	18	24.9	8-32
Chromium, Dissolved Hexavalent	Annual	ug/l	14	10	10	0.01-10
Fecal Coliform	Annual	#/100 ml	242	150	49100	9.2-200000
Flow Rate	Summer	MGD	888	0.327	1.03	0.0209-891
Flow Rate	Winter	MGD	868	0.674	1.16	0.102-913
Flow Rate	Annual	MGD	1756	0.474	1.11	0.0209-913
Chlorine, Total Residual	Annual	mg/l	649	0	0.02	0-0.1
Mercury, Total (Low Level)	Annual	ng/l	18	35.6	255	14.1-330
CBOD 5 day	Summer	mg/l	251	5.48	7.95	2.64-58.7
CBOD 5 day	Winter	mg/l	239	5.71	9.66	2.59-122

Table 2. Modified final effluent limits and monitoring requirements for Columbus Grove outfall 2PC00004001 and the basis for their recommendation.

		Effluent Limits				
		Concentration		Loading (kg/day)		
Parameter	Units	30 Day Average	Daily Maximum	30 Day Average	Daily Maximum	Basis[a]
E. coli Summer Only	#/100ml	161	362[b]	--	--	WQS
Mercury, T.	ng/l	73.1	1700	--	--	VAR (avg), WQS (max)

[a] Definitions: VAR = General mercury variance, Rule 3745-33-07(D)(10) of the Ohio Administrative Code; WQS = Ohio Water Quality Standards (OAC 3745-1-07).

[b] Weekly average limit