



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Southeast District Office

2195 Front Street
Logan, Ohio 43138

TELE: (740) 385-8501 FAX: (740) 385-6490
www.epa.state.oh.us

Ted Strickland, Governor
Lee Fisher, Lieutenant Governor
Chris Korleski, Director

March 12, 2007

Re: Athens County
Village of Albany
Compliance Inspection
Correspondence (PWW)

Mayor and Council
Village of Albany
5084 West Clinton Street
Albany, Ohio 45710

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

On February 28, 2007, Cynthia Yandrich and I, representing Ohio EPA's Division of Surface Water, performed a compliance inspection of the Albany wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). Mayor Thomas, Marco McVey (councilman), Tom Bobo (councilman), and Rick Verhotz (operator) represented the Village of Albany and assisted us during the inspection. The purpose of the inspection was to determine if the treatment plant was meeting the terms and conditions set forth in its NPDES permit.

During the inspection, the following comments/concerns were observed and discussed.

1. The south clarifier was actively discharging significant amounts of solids to the sand filters. This issue is not new. I have been in contact with the previous operator (Marvin Hale) and now Rick Verhotz for approximately the past year regarding the significant loss of solids from the clarifiers. During that time, several different plant management adjustments have been implemented in an attempt to remedy the problem. Keith Kroeger and Jon VanDommelen of Ohio EPA's Compliance Assistance Unit (CAU) also visited the plant and made some recommendations. Recently, this issue has led to the bypass of the sand filters due to clogging from excess solids, and the inclement weather has prohibited any attempts to return the sand filters to service.

During the inspection, Rick said he thought the problem with the clarifier may be a result of one or a combination of the following: broken sludge rake chains, significant build up of trash on the clarifier floor, or insufficient slope from the outside edges of the clarifiers (perpendicular to flow). Rick mentioned he would like to dewater the aeration basin and clarifier to investigate further. I encourage you to conduct this investigation when conditions allow.

Following the inspection, I conducted some additional research on our files and found several more possible causes for the clarifier issues. After review of the approved plans for the Albany WWTP, I found what I suspect to be design flaws which could be causing or contributing to the ongoing problem.

- The first item is a flat "shelf" extending two (2) feet out from the concrete wall separating the aeration basin and clarifier before the floor slopes into the clarifier. The configuration of the divider wall is such that there are three rectangular holes cut in the bottom of the wall to allow flow from the aeration basin to the clarifier. The combination of the flow channel configuration and "shelf" allow for the build-up of solid between the flow channels on the flat area. There is no mechanism to scrape these solids into the clarifier and on to the sludge holding tank. As a result the solids denitrify and float to the surface.
- The second item is the lack of velocity control through the flow channels in the aeration/clarifier divider wall. Without some type of baffle or flow damper, the clarifier could easily short-circuit during times of high flow. This means that the velocities in the clarifier would be too high to allow the solids to settle and therefore would go over the weir.

I encourage the Village of Albany to meet with the WWTP design engineer and manufacturer to discuss the issues you are experiencing with the clarifiers and possible management adjustments or plant modifications to remedy the problem.

2. As noted in item 1., the sand filters were overflowing due to clogging from excess solids. This overflow constitutes a treatment unit bypass, which is a violation of your NPDES Permit and must be stopped immediately. The village needs to be reporting the sand filter overflows as such on the Monthly Operating Reports (MORs), per the procedure in Part III Item 12 of the NPDES Permit.
3. The blower system for the WWTP did not include a timer. This is an important aspect of any blower system. Without a timer, controlling the amount of air applied to the aeration basin is difficult to control and could lead to problems. In order to help the operator better run the WWTP, the village should invest in a timer for the blower system.
4. During the inspection, we noticed that the cable supports for the aeration headers were not connected in the south aeration basin. The cable supports should be reconnected immediately to prevent any damage to the aeration headers.
5. As discussed during the inspection, the auto-dialers fitted to the lift stations throughout the village were not connected. The village needs to put the auto-dialers on all lift stations in service immediately. Also, the auto-dialer at the plant was not functioning properly. Repairs should be scheduled as soon as possible.

6. During the inspection, we found that the village did not have a small trash pump at the WWTP. A small trash pump is something that every WWTP should have on hand in the event the operator needs to dewater part of the plant for maintenance/repairs.

Please respond, in writing, within twenty-one (21) days addressing the above comments/concerns. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (740) 380-5226.

Sincerely,



Patrick Hudnall
District Engineer
Division of Surface Water

PH/dh

Enclosure

c: Rick Verhotz

NPDES
Compliance Inspection Report

A. NATIONAL DATA SYSTEM CODING

Permit No.	NPDES No.	Date	Inspection Type	Inspector	Facility Type
0PB00087	OH0127809	February 28, 2007	C	S	1

B. FACILITY DATA

Name and Location of Facility Inspected	Entry Time	Permit Effective Date
Village of Albany WWTP 6060 East Clinton Street Albany, Ohio	8:45 a.m.	Sept. 1, 2006
	Exit Time	Permit Expiration Date
	10:00 a.m.	August 31, 2011

Name(s) and Title(s) of On-Site Representative(s)	Phone Number(s)
Mayor Thomas, Councilman McVey, and Councilman Bobo Rick Verholz, operator	(740) 698-6127 (740) 380-2742
Name, Address and Title of Responsible Official	Phone Number
Village of Albany	(740) 698-6127

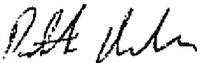
C. AREAS EVALUATED DURING INSPECTION

<u>S</u> Permit	<u>S</u> Flow Measurement	<u>N</u> Pretreatment
<u>S</u> Records/Reports	<u>S</u> Laboratory	<u>N/A</u> Compliance Schedules
<u>M</u> Operations & Maintenance	<u>M</u> Effluent/Receiving Waters	<u>S</u> Self-Monitoring Program
<u>M</u> Facility Site Review	<u>S</u> Sludge Storage/Disposal	<u> </u> Other
<u>M</u> Collection System		

(S = Satisfactory; M = Marginal; U = Unsatisfactory; N = Not Evaluated)

D. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS/COMMENTS (attach additional sheets if necessary)

See attached inspection letter.



Patrick Hudnall, Inspector, Ohio EPA, Southeast District Office

3/12/07

Date



Timothy M. Campbell, Reviewer, Ohio EPA, Southeast District Office

3/12/07

Date