



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Northwest District Office

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

Re: Putnam County
Columbus Grove
NPDES Permit

April 13, 2009

Mr. Jeff Vance
Columbus Grove WWTP
113 East Sycamore Street
Columbus Grove, Ohio 45830

Dear Mr. Vance

On April 1, 2009, a compliance inspection was conducted of the Village of Columbus Grove Wastewater Treatment Plant. You were present, and provided operation and maintenance information on the plant.

During our visit, all major treatment units were in operation, except for the grit chamber, a primary clarifier, and the chlorine disinfection system. The final effluent was cloudy, creating a noticeable plume in the receiving stream.

The grit remover was not in operation at the inspection. It was noted, from previous inspections, that the grit chamber has been out of service frequently for many years. To ensure the longevity of the facility, it is important to prevent grit, grease, and floatables from flowing through the treatment facility.

A primary clarifier was down due to mechanical failure. The replacement part has been ordered. The clarifier that was in operation had a build up of algae on the weirs and should be cleaned. It was stated that the weirs are on a weekly cleaning schedule.

It was observed that part of the flow to the primary trickling filter was being bypassed to the secondary trickling filter. The increased flow into the plant and having one of the two primary clarifiers out of operation contributed to the bypass. The wastewater appeared to be pouring out of the holes in the trickling filter arms in a concentrated flow, instead of spraying the filter media. Also, it was noted that a significant amount of water was leaking through the center shaft seals.

The chlorine contact tank was being pumped out and cleaned during the inspection to get ready for the disinfection season. The flow was being diverted around the tank and straight to the outfall. Since the flow meter is located in the contact tank the flow rate was being estimated from the influent.

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No outfall sign was observed at the final outfall. Part II C. of your NPDES Permit states "Not later than 4 months from the effective date of this permit, the permittee shall post a permanent marker on the Plum Creek's stream bank at each outfall that is regulated under this NPDES permit where a marker does not currently exist. This includes final outfalls, bypasses, and combined sewer overflows. The marker shall consist at a minimum of the name of the establishment to which the permit was issued, the Ohio EPA permit number, and the outfall number and a contact telephone number. The information shall be printed in letters not less than two inches in height.

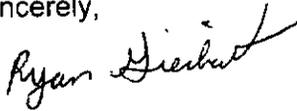
The marker shall be a minimum of 2 feet by 2 feet and shall be a minimum of 3 feet above ground level. The sign shall not be obstructed such that persons in boats or persons swimming on the river or someone fishing or walking along the shore cannot read the sign. Vegetation shall be periodically removed to keep the sign visible. If the outfall is normally submerged the sign shall indicate that. If the outfall is a combined sewer outfall, the sign shall indicate that untreated human sewage may be discharged from the outfall during wet weather and that harmful bacteria may be present in the water. When an existing marker is replaced or reset, the new marker shall comply with the requirements of this section." A sign that meets these requirements needs to be placed at the final outfall.

A calibration record for the lab equipment was not located. A calibration record should be kept onsite. The meters should be calibrated according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Also, a refrigerator unit with a thermometer was not identified in the lab. A refrigerator unit with a thermometer is needed to ensure proper preservation techniques are followed.

A review of your Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMR) for August 2008, to April 2009, showed that there have been several permit limit violations. There have been violations of the Fecal Coliform, Nitrogen, and Ammonia effluent limits. The specific instances of noncompliance are attached on a separate sheet.

If you have any questions please contact me at (419) 373-3053.

Sincerely,



Ryan Gierhart
Division of Surface Water

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Enclosure

pc: Mayor and Council
DSW-NWDO File

F. GUIDE - VISUAL OBSERVATION - UNIT PROCESS

Form Approved
OMB No.

158-R0035

RATING CODES: S = Satisfactory; U = Unsatisfactory; M = Marginal; IN = In Operation; OUT = Out of Operation

	CONDITION OR APPEARANCE	RATING	COMMENTS
General	Grounds	S	
	Buildings	S	
	Potable Water Supply Protection	S	
	Safety Features	S	
	Bypasses		
	Stormwater Overflows		
	Alternate Power Source	U	No alternate Power source at the facility
Preliminary	Maintenance of Collection Systems		
	Pump Station		
	Ventilation		
	Bar Screen	IN	1 in
	Disposal of Screenings	S	To land fill
	Comminutor		
	Grit Chamber	Out	The grit remover would not start in need of repair
	Disposal of Grit	S	To dumpster to landfill
Primary	Settling Tanks	IN	1 Primary clarifier in the 2 nd clarifier was down waiting on part for repair
	Scum Removal	IN	
	Sludge Removal	IN	1 Sludge Return Pump 1 Sludge Waste Pump
	Effluent	M	Light grey
Sludge Disposal	Digesters	IN	1 anaerobic
	Temperature and pH		
	Gas Production		
	Heating Equipment		
	Sludge Pumps		
	Drying Beds	IN	2 beds in
	Filter Press		
	Disposal of Sludge	S	Land application Plan to Landfill rest of year.
Other	Flow Meter and Recorder	OUT	Flow meter out due to cleaning of chlorine tank estimating flow by influent
	Records		
	Lab Controls		
	Chemical Treatment		
Secondary-Tertiary	Trickling Filters	IN	Primary trickling filter and secondary trickling filter.
	Final Clarifier	IN	Cloudy effluent
Disinfection	Effluent	M	Cloudy leaving a plume in the stream.
	Disinfection System	OUT	
	Effective Dosage		
	Contact Time		
	Contact Tank		
	Dechlorination		

Get New Data

Permit No	Reporting Period	Station	Reporting Code	Parameter	Limit Type	Limit	Reported Value	Violation Date
2PC00004*HD	August 2008	001	31616	Fecal Coliform	7D Conc	2000	3898.71	8/8/2008
2PC00004*HD	September 2008	001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3)	30D Conc	2	2.181	9/1/2008
2PC00004*HD	September 2008	001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3)	7D Conc	3	4.37	9/8/2008
2PC00004*HD	September 2008	001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3)	7D Conc	3	5.26	9/15/2008
2PC00004*HD	September 2008	001	31616	Fecal Coliform	7D Conc	2000	17888.5	9/22/2008