



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Northwest District Office

347 North Dunbridge Road
Bowling Green, OH 43402-9398

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

Re: Notice Of Violation
Putnam County
Continental WWTP
NPDES Permit

November 3, 2009

Mayor and Council
Village of Continental
City Hall, Main Street
Continental, Ohio 45831

Dear Mayor and Council:

On April 1, 2009, an inspection was conducted at the Continental wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and a meeting was held at the Village of Continental town hall. The Village Mayor, Sewer and Water Board, Poggemyer Design Group, and the Wastewater Operator for the Village were present and provided information concerning the operation and maintenance of the plant. Representatives from Ohio EPA that were present included Ms. Gretchen Fickle, DEFA, Ms. Dana Martin-Hayden, DSW, Mr. Mike Selyak, DSW, and Mr. Mike Rieser, DSIWM.

On August 11 and October 6, 2009, follow up inspections were conducted. Mr. Don Wagner, Mr. Kenny Mullet, Mr. Tim Philips, Mr. Nelson Bear and Ms. Dana Martin-Hayden were present at the August 11, 2009 inspection. Please see attached inspection reports.

Meeting with Village regarding treatment and location options

The purpose of the April 1, 2009 meeting at the Town Hall was to discuss the status of the schedule of compliance milestones contained in the NPDES permit and if the cost benefit associated with a mechanical plant would outweigh those of a controlled discharge wastewater treatment lagoon. It is our understanding that the Village will need to acquire land for the lagoon through the process of eminent domain. As a result, the Village asked their engineers to provide cost comparisons for a mechanical plant located on Village property versus the planned controlled discharge lagoon.

Ms. Fickle was present to provide information regarding how each option would qualify for stimulus funding. If design could proceed quickly, the mechanical plant might be within the time frames associated with the stimulus money. However, due to the time delays associated with the lagoon option, these monies may not be available.

We understand that the Village reviewed the cost comparison, and decided to continue with eminent domain proceedings and install a controlled discharge lagoon. The benefit of the lower long term operation and maintenance costs was cited.

DFFOs Violation

The Village is in violation of item 1. b. of the Director's Final Findings and Orders signed on January 14, 2008. The Order states: "Submit a complete and approvable permit to install and plan approval for WWTP and sewer system improvements and an NPDES permit modification application, as soon as possible, but not later than June 1, 2009." To date no permit to install or NPDES permit modification applications have been received.

Communications regarding Schedule of Compliance Deadlines

Given that deadlines in the Findings and Orders have been missed, the Village is in significant noncompliance. The NWDO must be kept up to date on the Village's progress towards constructing a new WWTP. These updates should clearly state who is responsible for the next phase of this project and provide a reasonable associated time for completion. Phases of the project should be discussed in a complete manner. For example, the acquisition of property should include a schedule and time frame for securing associated easements if this will further prevent the project from submission to funding agencies. Monthly progress reports must be submitted to my attention. If reasonable progress is not being made toward complying with the Findings and Orders, we will consider escalating enforcement on this case.

NPDES permit violations

A review of the Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) from July 1, 2008 to October 1, 2009 shows numerous permit limit violations. A copy of the violations has been attached for your review.

The treatment facility continues to experience chronic NPDES permit violations for total suspended solids (TSS), ammonia, dissolved oxygen, residual chlorine and CBOD. Until construction is completed, the Village must be diligent in operating the existing wastewater treatment plant. Although it will not be possible to meet permit limits, it is vital that the plant achieve the highest level of treatment possible to minimize the pollutant load to the stream.

Sludge Issues

During the August 11, 2009 inspection the continued sludge accumulation issues were noted. (Sludge on the trickling filter, final tank dark grey, bubbling, septic with floating sludge, sludge in the chlorine contact tank) The discharge to the stream had a musty smell, and was brown with high solids. The stream had a thick coating of black and grey sediments and some floating tissue paper.

Due to low flow in the stream, the discharge was noted to flow up and downstream. Mr. Philips committed to increase the sludge pumping activities from every 6 months to a frequency that decreases the negative effects this facility is having on the stream and improves discharge quality.

During the most recent inspection, October 6, 2009, it appeared that the increased frequency in pumping sludge from the Spirogestor for off-site disposal to once every two months has improved the quality of the discharge. Sludge is being wasted from the Spirogestor to the sludge drying beds every other day. The final clarifier tank is being pumped to the head of the plant once a week. The effluent observed was clear and colorless with no noticeable odor.

Compliance with Mercury

The Village is also in violation of meeting Part 1, C - Schedule of Compliance in the NPDES Permit 2PB00049*ED. Item 3. B.2-B.5 is outlined below. To date no documentation has been received for mercury compliance. Actions must be taken immediately to comply with the mercury requirements in the NPDES permit.

2. If, based on an evaluation of mercury data for outfall 2PB00049001 collected using Method 1631, the permittee believes that it will be able to consistently comply with the water quality based effluent limits for mercury included in this NPDES permit, it shall submit a letter to Ohio EPA. The letter shall be submitted not later than 2 months from the effective date of this permit. In the letter, the permittee shall state that it intends to comply with the water quality based effluent limits for mercury included in the NPDES permit. In this case, no modification of the NPDES permit will be necessary to address compliance with mercury effluent limit.

If, based on an evaluation of mercury data for outfall 2PB00049001 collected using Method 1631, the permittee believes that it will not be able to consistently comply with the water quality based effluent limits for mercury included in this NPDES permit, it shall submit one of the following to Ohio EPA not later than 2 months from the effective date of this permit: (Due 8/1/2009)

3. If the permittee believes that it will be able to take actions leading to compliance with the water quality based effluent limits for mercury included in this NPDES permit, it may submit a request to modify the NPDES permit to include a schedule of compliance and an interim effluent limit for mercury.

4. If the permittee determines that compliance with the water quality based effluent limits for mercury included in this permit is not possible without the construction of expensive end-of-pipe controls, a variance from the mercury water quality standards is available under section D(10) of rule 3745-33-07. If the permittee determines it is eligible, it may submit an application for coverage under this mercury variance. Section D(10)(a) of rule 3745-33-07 includes information on eligibility for coverage and lists the information that must be included in the application.

5. If the permittee determines that compliance with the water quality based effluent limits for mercury included in this permit is not possible, and it is not eligible for coverage under the mercury variance available at section D(10) of rule 3745-33-07, it may submit an application for an individual variance from water quality standards. Section (D)(1-3) of rule 3745-33-07 provides information on the applicability and conditions of an individual variance. Section (D)(4) of the rule lists the information that must be included in the application.

Maintenance Improvements

During the August 11, 2009 inspection, we noted that the building and ground maintenance had improved from those conditions noted in the April 1, 2009 inspection report. Please see attached. A fence was installed to improve security. Buildings and treatment units had been painted. Safety bars were installed on the spirogester unit. Additional boards were being installed in the sludge drying bed's splash guards. We did not see evidence of sludge housekeeping issues.

All major plant components were in operation at the time of the inspection. If you have any questions, please contact Ryan Gierhart at (419)373-3053.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth A. Wick, P.E.
Water Quality Engineer
Division of Surface Water
/csl

Enclosure

Cc/w encl. Tim Phillips
Water and Sewer Board
DSW, NWDO File

Ec/w encl. Mike Shapiro, DSW, Legal
Ryan Gierhart, DSW
Dana Martin-Hayden, DSW
DSW, NWDO File

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE INSPECTION
0.025 to 1.0 MGD

Facility Name Village of Continental Application No. OH
 Facility Address _____ Ohio Permit No. _____
 City Continental County Putnum Date 4/1/09 Time 1:00pm
 Name and Address of Owner _____ Township _____
 Person Contacted _____ Phone _____
 Phone _____
 Allow: Design _____ GPD Present _____ GPD (metered - estimated) _____
 Trib. Pop. _____ (actual-estimated) Weather at time of inspection _____
 EPA Personnel Dana Martin-Hayden, Mike Selyak District NWDO

STORET I.D. No. 39 _____

NOTATIONS BY EVALUATOR								
1. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS DEFICIENCIES								
CHECK EACH OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN TERMS OF THEIR ESTIMATED ADVERSE EFFECTS ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PLANT								
ITEM	MAJOR	MINOR	NONE	ITEM	MAJOR	MINOR	NONE	
STAFF COMPLEMENT				OVERLOADS (type)				
PERSONNEL TRAINING				HYDRAULIC				
OPERATOR BUDGET				PERIODIC	✓			
LABORATORY CONTROL				CONTINUOUS				
INSTRUMENTATION				ORGANIC				
INDUSTRIAL WASTE				PERIODIC				
PLANT OBSOLESCENCE	✓			CONTINUOUS				
EQUIPMENT FAILURE:	✓			OVERLOAD CAUSES:				
TREATMENT PROCESSES	✓			INFILTRATION	✓			
SLUDGE HANDLING AND PROCESSING	✓			COMBINED SEWERS				
EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	✓			INDUSTRIAL GROWTH				
SPARE PARTS INVENTORY				RAPID POPULATION GROWTH				
POWER FAILURE				INCREASED SERVICE AREA				
				OTHER:				
				OTHER:				

2. PLANT PERSONNEL INVENTORY								
PERSONNEL CLASSIFICATION (a.)	EMPLOYMENT (b.)				CERTIFICATION (c.)		TRAINING REQUIRED NEXT 12 MONTHS (d.)	
	ACTUAL		NUMBER BUDGETED	NO. RECOMMENDED	NO. RECOMMENDED OR REQUIRED BY STATE	ACTUAL NO. CERTIFIED	NEW HIRES	UPGRADE (Promotion or skill improvement)
	MANHOURS PER WEEK	NUMBER						
1. MANAGEMENT SUPERVISOR								
2. OPERATOR								
3. LABORATORY								
4. MAINTENANCE								
5. OTHER PLANT WORKERS								
6. OTHER OFFICE WORKERS								
7. TOTAL								

3. PURPOSE OF INSPECTION				4. GENERAL RATING			
___ GRANT COMPLIANCE		___ FOLLOW-UP		ACCEPTABLE			
___ PERMIT COMPLIANCE		___ OTHER:		CONDITIONAL ACCEPTANCE			
				UNACCEPTABLE			
EVALUATION PERFORMED BY		TITLE		ORGANIZATION		DATE	
INFORMATION FURNISHED BY		TITLE		ORGANIZATION		DATE	

Continental W.W.T.P.

4/1/09

GUIDE - VISUAL OBSERVATION - UNIT PROCESS

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

CONDITION OR APPEARANCE		RATING	COMMENTS
GENERAL	GROUNDS	U	Sludge and WW on north gate side ~ 40' x 20'
	BUILDINGS	S	
	POTABLE WATER SUPPLY PROTECTION		
	SAFETY FEATURES		
	BYPASSES		
	STORMWATER OVERFLOWS		
	Fencing of grounds	U	
PRELIMINARY	MAINTENANCE OF COLLECTION SYSTEMS		
	PUMP STATION		
	VENTILATION		
	BAR SCREEN		
	DISPOSAL OF SCREENINGS		
	COMMINUTOR		
	GRIT CHAMBER - aerated	IN	black, septic, full of grit;
PRIMARY	DISPOSAL OF GRIT		
	SETTLING TANKS		
	SCUM REMOVAL		
	SLUDGE REMOVAL		
	EFFLUENT		
Spino gester	IN	1-RUSTY AND Black WW, chains holding up weir, digester rusted through - open to rain	
SLUDGE DISPOSAL	DIGESTERS		
	TEMPERATURE AND PH		
	GAS PRODUCTION		
	HEATING EQUIPMENT		
	SLUDGE PUMPS		
	DRYING BEDS	IN	2-sludge was in all 3 - low low quality sludge not digested or treated
	VACUUM FILTER		
	INCINERATION		
OTHER	DISPOSAL OF SLUDGE		
	FLOW METER AND RECORDER		
	RECORDS		
SECONDARY-TERTIARY (LIST ITEMS AS REQUIRED)	LAB CONTROLS		
	Trickling Filters	IN	1-weeds from last season still present, leaky center seal
	settling tank final	IN	1-grey sludge on weirs, grey tank used
CHLORINE	Distributor box trickling filter	IN	cut lower than the - allows short circuiting
	EFFLUENT	IN	dark grey w/ suspended solids / w septic odor
	CHLORINATORS	OUT	dark green tank water - a m line added
	EFFECTIVE DOSAGE		(? to raise final DO)
	CONTACT TIME		
CONTACT TANK			
Dechlorination	OUT		

ANNUAL BUDGET FOR MAINTAINING AND OPERATING PLANT

SALARIES & WAGES	ELECTRICITY	CHEMICALS	MAINTENANCE	STAFFING & TRAINING	OTHER	TOTAL

F. GUIDE - VISUAL OBSERVATION - UNIT PROCESS

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

	CONDITION OR APPEARANCE	RATING	COMMENTS
General	Grounds	S	Improvements in buildings & fencing noted
	Buildings		
	Potable Water Supply Prot.		
	Safety Features		
	Bypasses		
	Stormwater Overflows		
	Alternate Power Source		
Preliminary	Maintenance of Collection Systems	S	brown, septic, aerated
	Pump Station		
	Ventilation		
	Bar Screen		
	Disposal of Screenings		
	Comminutor		
	Grit Chamber		
	Disposal of Grit		
Primary	Settling Tanks	U	Rusting out comminutor center, Weir's inactive hanging by chains, grey high solids
	Scum Removal		
	Sludge Removal		
	Effluent		
Sludge Disposal	Digesters	S	Building up side slats to retain more sludge
	Temperature and pH		
	Gas Production		
	Heating Equipment		
	Sludge Pumps		
	Drying Beds		
	Vacuum Filter		
	Disposal of Sludge		
Other	Flow Meter and Recorder		
	Records		
	Lab Controls		
	Chemical Treatment		
Secondary-Tertiary List items as required	Final Tank - Settling	U	Floating sludge, black water, septic smell
	Trickling Filter	M	Sludge on media, arm rotating, low leakage. no high flows so distribution box not surcharging onto top of filter.
Disinfection	Effluent	U	Brownish, musty smell, high solids.
	Disinfection System	U	Floating sludge, black water, very septic smell
	Effective Dosage		
	Contact Time		
	Contact Tank		
	Dechlorination		
Stream effect			Black & grey sediments, floating tissue paper, floating - upstream and downstream impact due to low flow.

Get New Data

Permit No.	Reporting Period	Station	Reporting Code	Parameter	Limit Type	Limit	Reported Value	Violation Date
2PB00049*ED	July 2008	001	00530	Total Suspended Solids	30D Conc	12	13.7	7/1/2008
2PB00049*ED	July 2008	001	00530	Total Suspended Solids	30D Qty	7.9	11.1226	7/1/2008
2PB00049*ED	July 2008	001	00530	Total Suspended Solids	7D Qty	12	12.6343	7/8/2008
2PB00049*ED	August 2008	001	00530	Total Suspended Solids	30D Conc	12	21.5	8/1/2008
2PB00049*ED	August 2008	001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3)	30D Conc	1.5	3.62667	8/1/2008
2PB00049*ED	August 2008	001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3)	7D Conc	2.3	2.9	8/1/2008
2PB00049*ED	August 2008	001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3)	30D Qty	1.0	1.54819	8/1/2008
2PB00049*ED	August 2008	001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3)	7D Conc	2.3	5.98	8/15/2008
2PB00049*ED	August 2008	001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3)	7D Qty	1.5	2.82929	8/15/2008
2PB00049*ED	August 2008	001	00530	Total Suspended Solids	7D Conc	18	46.	8/22/2008
2PB00049*ED	August 2008	001	00530	Total Suspended Solids	7D Qty	12	12.4980	8/22/2008
2PB00049*ED	September 2008	001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3)	30D Conc	1.5	2.7	9/1/2008
2PB00049*ED	September 2008	001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3)	7D Conc	2.3	2.5	9/8/2008
2PB00049*ED	September 2008	001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3)	7D Conc	2.3	4.	9/15/2008
2PB00049*ED	September 2008	001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3)	7D Conc	2.3	2.8	9/22/2008
2PB00049*ED	October 2008	001	00530	Total Suspended Solids	30D Conc	12	13.1	10/1/2008
2PB00049*ED	October 2008	001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3)	30D Conc	1.5	2.4	10/1/2008
2PB00049*ED	October 2008	001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3)	7D Conc	2.3	3.2	10/15/2008
2PB00049*ED	October 2008	001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3)	7D Conc	2.3	2.4	10/22/2008
2PB00049*ED	November 2008	001	00530	Total Suspended Solids	30D Conc	12	13.25	11/1/2008
2PB00049*ED	December 2008	001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3)	30D Conc	6	6.24	12/1/2008
2PB00049*ED	December 2008	001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3)	7D Qty	6	6.0068	12/8/2008
2PB00049*ED	January 2009	001	00530	Total Suspended Solids	30D Conc	12	13.5555	1/1/2009
2PB00049*ED	January 2009	001	80082	CBOD 5 day	30D Conc	10	10.6666	1/1/2009
2PB00049*ED	February 2009	001	00530	Total Suspended Solids	30D Conc	12	14.	2/1/2009
2PB00049*ED	February 2009	001	80082	CBOD 5 day	30D Conc	10	11.5	2/1/2009
2PB00049*ED	February 2009	001	80082	CBOD 5 day	30D Qty	6.5	6.83524	2/1/2009
2PB00049*ED	February 2009	001	00530	Total Suspended Solids	7D Qty	12	12.5813	2/8/2009
2PB00049*ED	February 2009	001	80082	CBOD 5 day	7D Qty	9.8	13.0752	2/8/2009
2PB00049*ED	March 2009	001	00530	Total Suspended Solids	30D Conc	12	13.25	3/1/2009
2PB00049*ED	March 2009	001	00530	Total Suspended Solids	7D Conc	18	19.	3/1/2009
2PB00049*ED	March 2009	001	80082	CBOD 5 day	30D Conc	10	11.375	3/1/2009
2PB00049*ED	March 2009	001	80082	CBOD 5 day	7D Qty	9.8	12.7176	3/8/2009

2PB00049*ED	April 2009	001	00530	Total Suspended Solids	30D Conc	12	12.4	4/1/2009
2PB00049*ED	April 2009	001	80082	CBOD 5 day	30D Conc	10	12.2	4/1/2009
2PB00049*ED	April 2009	001	80082	CBOD 5 day	30D Qty	6.5	7.03291	4/1/2009
2PB00049*ED	April 2009	001	80082	CBOD 5 day	7D Conc	15	17.	4/8/2009
2PB00049*ED	April 2009	001	80082	CBOD 5 day	7D Qty	9.8	14.2921	4/8/2009
2PB00049*ED	May 2009	001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3	7D Conc	2.3	2.5	5/22/2009
2PB00049*ED	June 2009	001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3	30D Conc	1.5	1.775	6/1/2009
2PB00049*ED	June 2009	001	80082	CBOD 5 day	30D Conc	10	11.75	6/1/2009
2PB00049*ED	August 2009	001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3	30D Conc	1.5	2.625	8/1/2009
2PB00049*ED	August 2009	001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3	7D Conc	2.3	3.9	8/15/2009
2PB00049*ED	August 2009	001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3	7D Qty	1.5	1.84519	8/15/2009
2PB00049*ED	August 2009	001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3	7D Conc	2.3	2.5	8/22/2009