



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Northwest District Office

347 North Dunbridge Rd.
Bowling Green, OH 43402-9398

TELE: (419) 352-8461 FAX: (419) 352-8468
www.epa.ohio.gov

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

Re: Notice of Violation
Putnam County
Poet Biorefining
NPDES Permit

February 25, 2010

Mr. Mark Borer
General Manager
Poet Biorefining
3875 State Route 65
Leipsic, Ohio 45856

Dear Mr. Borer:

On February 17, 2010, a compliance inspection was conducted at Poet Biorefining – Leipsic Plant. You, Mr. Steve Webb and Mr. Jeff Elam were present and provided information on the operation and maintenance of the facility.

The facility produces an ethanol product made from corn. The process wastewater is recycled and consumed in the production process. It was noted that there are three wet wells that collect runoff and recycle it back into the process. The process wet well collects process water from the floor drains in the process building and recycles it back to the thin stillage process. The wet well located by the hammer mill collects runoff from the wet stillage storage area and recycles it back to the thin stillage process. The wet well by the distillation system collects water and recycles it back to the distillation process.

The discharge to outfall 001 is from the cooling tower blowdown, cooling tower sand filter backwash, water softener reject water, and the reverse osmosis (R.O.) reject water. Recently the facility has been able to utilize more the R.O. reject to drastically reduce the amount of water discharged.

A review of the Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) for September 1, 2009, to February 1, 2010, shows that there have been numerous permit limit violations. The specific instances of noncompliance are enclosed on separate sheets. Further review of your self-monitoring reports for the previous six months ending in February 2010 indicates that you are in significant non-compliance (SNC) with two effluent limitations contained in your NPDES permits. The specific instances of SNC are enclosed on a separate sheet.

It is our understanding that an NPDES permit modification will be submitted to apply for an increase in the winter temperature limit. The facility has continued to collect temperature samples upstream, downstream, 10 feet from the discharge, and at the discharge into Hickey Ditch.

Mr. Mark Borer
February 25, 2010
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It is noted that the limit violations for Total Residual Oxidants are believed to be from the use of city water. The facility is looking at installing a new booster pump to obtain more flow from the reservoir and eliminate the use of city water. Please inform our office in writing of the steps taken to eliminate the violations and prevent their recurrence.

Please be advised that failure to comply with the effluent limitations and/or monitoring requirements, including adequate laboratory controls, appropriate quality assurance procedures, and records retention, as specified in your Part III – General Conditions of your NPDES permit may be cause for enforcement action pursuant to Ohio Revised (ORC) Chapter 6111. If these violations continue to occur and if satisfactory progress is not made, it may be necessary to initiate enforcement action to achieve compliance.

The Ohio EPA strongly encourages pollution prevention as the preferred approach for waste management. The first priority of pollution prevention is to eliminate the generation of wastes and pollutants at the source (source reduction). For those wastes or pollutants that are generated, the second priority is to recycle or reuse them in an environmentally sound manner. You can benefit economically, help preserve the environment and improve your public image by implementing pollution prevention programs. For more information about pollution prevention, including fact sheets or U.S. EPA's "*Facility Pollution Prevention Guide*" (EPA/600/R-92.008), please contact the Ohio EPA Pollution Prevention Section at 614-644-3469.

If there are any questions, please contact me at 419-373-3053.

Sincerely, ~



Ryan Gierhart
Division of Surface Water

/cs

Enclosures

cc: ~~DSW, NWDO, File~~



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Northwest District Office

NPDES Compliance Inspection Report

Section A: National Data System Coding

Permit #	NPDES#	Month/Day/Year	Inspection Type	Inspector	Facility Type
2IF00023	OH0138622	2/17/10	C	S	2

Section B: Facility Data

Name and Location of Facility Inspected	Entry Time	Permit Effective Date
Poet Biorefining- Leipsic 3875 St. Route 65 Leipsic, OH 45856	10:00 am	10/25/2007
	Exit Time	Permit Expiration Date
	12:00 pm	12/31/2011
Name(s) and Title(s) of On-Site Representatives	Phone Number(s)	
Steve Webb, EH&S Specialist Jeff Elam, Technical Specialist Mark Borer, General Manager	419-943-9201	
Name, Address and Title of Responsible Official	Phone Number	
Mark Borer, General Manager 3875 St. Rt. 65 Leipsic, Ohio 45856	419-943-9201 ext. 19201	

Section C: Areas Evaluated During Inspection

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

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

Section D: Summary of Findings (Attach additional sheets if necessary)

[Empty box for Summary of Findings]

Inspector

Reviewer

<i>Ryan Gjerhart</i>	<i>2/23/10</i>	<i>Elizabeth A. Wick</i>	<i>2/23/10</i>
Ryan Gjerhart Environmental Specialist II Division of Surface Water Northwest District Office	Date	Elizabeth A. Wick, P.E. Water Quality Engineer Division of Surface Water Northwest District Office	Date

Permit #: Error! Reference source not found.
NPDES #: Error! Reference source not found.

Sections E thru K: Complete on all inspections as appropriate
Y – Yes, N – No, N/A – Not Applicable, N/E – Not Evaluated

Section E: Permit Verification

Inspection observations verify the permit

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (a) Correct name and mailing address of permittee | Y |
| (b) Correct name and location of receiving waters..... | Y |
| (c) Product(s) and production rates conform with permit application (Industries)..... | Y |
| (d) Flows and loadings conform with NPDES permit..... | Y |
| (e) Treatment processes are as described in permit application... | N/A |
| (f) New treatment process(es) added since last inspection..... | N/A |
| (g) Notification given to State of new, different or increased discharges..... | Y |
| (h) All discharges are permitted..... | Y |
| (i) Number and location of discharge points are as described in permit..... | Y |

Comments/Status:

Section F: Compliance Schedules/Violations

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (a) Any significant violations since the last inspection..... | Y |
| (b) Permittee is taking actions to resolve violations..... | Y |
| (c) Permittee has a compliance schedule..... | N |
| (d) Compliance schedule contained in <input type="text"/> | |
| (e) Permittee is meeting compliance schedule..... | N/A |

Comments/Status:

Facility was in SNC for temperature and Oxidants, Total Residual. Facility is working on submitting a permit modification for an increase in Winter Temperature Limits. The facility believes that the oxidant violations are from the use of City Water, so they are looking into eliminating the use of city water.

Get New Data

Permit No	Reporting Period	Station	Reporting Code	Parameter	Limit Type	Limit	Reported Value	Violation Date
2IF00023*BD	October 2009	001	34044	Oxidants, Total Residu	1D Conc	0.01	.15	10/1/2009
2IF00023*BD	October 2009	001	34044	Oxidants, Total Residu	1D Conc	0.01	.09	10/21/2009
2IF00023*BD	November 2009	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	63.14	11/1/2009
2IF00023*BD	November 2009	001	00011	Water Temperature	30D Conc	44	60.5183	11/1/2009
2IF00023*BD	November 2009	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	63.68	11/2/2009
2IF00023*BD	November 2009	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	60.26	11/3/2009
2IF00023*BD	November 2009	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	65.84	11/4/2009
2IF00023*BD	November 2009	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	60.08	11/5/2009
2IF00023*BD	November 2009	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	69.8	11/6/2009
2IF00023*BD	November 2009	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	64.76	11/7/2009
2IF00023*BD	November 2009	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	64.04	11/8/2009
2IF00023*BD	November 2009	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	60.98	11/9/2009
2IF00023*BD	November 2009	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	61.7	11/10/2009
2IF00023*BD	November 2009	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	62.42	11/11/2009
2IF00023*BD	November 2009	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	61.52	11/12/2009
2IF00023*BD	November 2009	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	61.16	11/13/2009
2IF00023*BD	November 2009	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	61.34	11/14/2009
2IF00023*BD	November 2009	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	61.88	11/15/2009
2IF00023*BD	November 2009	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	62.78	11/16/2009
2IF00023*BD	November 2009	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	63.14	11/17/2009
2IF00023*BD	November 2009	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	55.71	11/18/2009
2IF00023*BD	November 2009	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	56.12	11/19/2009
2IF00023*BD	November 2009	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	55.71	11/20/2009
2IF00023*BD	November 2009	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	65.3	11/21/2009
2IF00023*BD	November 2009	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	65.12	11/22/2009
2IF00023*BD	November 2009	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	54.9	11/23/2009
2IF00023*BD	November 2009	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	54.61	11/24/2009
2IF00023*BD	November 2009	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	53.4	11/25/2009
2IF00023*BD	November 2009	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	53.33	11/26/2009
2IF00023*BD	November 2009	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	53.29	11/27/2009
2IF00023*BD	November 2009	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	65.12	11/28/2009
2IF00023*BD	November 2009	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	65.12	11/29/2009
2IF00023*BD	November 2009	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	49.3	11/30/2009

2IF00023*BD	December 2009	001	00011	Water Temperature	30D Conc	44	50.8835	12/1/2009
2IF00023*BD	December 2009	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	53.06	12/3/2009
2IF00023*BD	December 2009	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	59.18	12/5/2009
2IF00023*BD	December 2009	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	59.54	12/6/2009
2IF00023*BD	December 2009	001	34044	Oxidants, Total Residu	1D Conc	0.01	.355	12/10/2009
2IF00023*BD	December 2009	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	60.98	12/12/2009
2IF00023*BD	December 2009	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	61.52	12/13/2009
2IF00023*BD	December 2009	001	34044	Oxidants, Total Residu	1D Conc	0.01	.265	12/17/2009
2IF00023*BD	December 2009	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	59.72	12/19/2009
2IF00023*BD	December 2009	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	59.36	12/20/2009
2IF00023*BD	December 2009	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	73.4	12/24/2009
2IF00023*BD	December 2009	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	64.94	12/25/2009
2IF00023*BD	December 2009	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	60.62	12/26/2009
2IF00023*BD	December 2009	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	58.64	12/27/2009
2IF00023*BD	January 2010	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	63.5	1/1/2010
2IF00023*BD	January 2010	001	00011	Water Temperature	30D Conc	44	49.9587	1/1/2010
2IF00023*BD	January 2010	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	63.86	1/2/2010
2IF00023*BD	January 2010	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	64.76	1/3/2010
2IF00023*BD	January 2010	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	62.6	1/9/2010
2IF00023*BD	January 2010	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	60.98	1/10/2010
2IF00023*BD	January 2010	001	34044	Oxidants, Total Residu	1D Conc	0.01	.072	1/12/2010
2IF00023*BD	January 2010	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	61.7	1/16/2010
2IF00023*BD	January 2010	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	62.24	1/17/2010
2IF00023*BD	January 2010	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	68.	1/23/2010
2IF00023*BD	January 2010	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	68.18	1/24/2010
2IF00023*BD	January 2010	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	56.84	1/30/2010
2IF00023*BD	January 2010	001	00011	Water Temperature	1D Conc	49	59.36	1/31/2010

Got Now
Data

Details
for selected
Permit

Facilities in Significant Non-Compliance **

Period: Sep-09 Feb-10

County	Permit #	Facility Name	Major	Station Code	Param Code	Parameter Name	Max % Exceed	# Months Signif Exceed (1)	# Months Exceed (2)
Putnam	2IF00023	Summit Ethanol LLC		1	00011	Water Temperature	49.8	3	3
Putnam	2IF00023	Summit Ethanol LLC		1	34044	Oxidants, Total Residual	3450	3	3