



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: Sandusky County  
Fremont WWTP  
NPDES Permit

April 29, 2010

Mayor & Council  
City of Fremont  
323 South Front Street  
Fremont, Ohio 43420

Dear Mayor & Council:

On March 24, 2010, Mary Beth Cohen conducted a compliance inspection of the Fremont Water Pollution Control Center (WPCC). Mr. James Johnson, Superintendent and Mr. Jeff Lamson, Assistant Superintendent, were present and provided information regarding plant operations. All major treatment units were in operation during the inspection. A clear final effluent was being discharged. The following items were noted:

A stress test is currently being conducted at the WPCC.

Review of Fremont's Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) has been completed and approved.

The NPDES permit has been modified to include the LTCP schedule (Modification Effective Date: May 1, 2010).

The leak in the west wall of the aeration tank has been patched with grout.

The Intergrated Fixed-film Activated Sludge (IFAS) media is being removed and recycled.

In March, a portable sludge press was utilized by Midwest Compost to press 1.1 million gallons of sludge. The sludge was then land applied.

Continued coordination with the superintendent of sewers is required for NPDES required reporting of separate sewer system overflows (SSO) and/or basement flooding.

A review of your discharge monitoring reports (05/01/2009 through 03/31/2010) shows the following permit violation during this time.

Reporting Period	Station	Reporting Code	Parameter	Limit Type	Limit	Reported Value	Violation Date
October 2009	001	50060	Chlorine, Total Residu	1D Conc	0.038	.12	10/26/2009



Mayor & Council  
April 29, 2010  
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Our completed inspection report form is enclosed for your review. If there are any questions, please contact Mary Beth Cohen at (419) 373-3014.

Yours truly,



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

/lb

Enclosure

pc: James Johnson, Superintendent (w/ enclosures)  
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
2PD00007	OH0025291	03/24/2010	C	S	1

Section B: Facility Data		
Name and Location of Facility Inspected	Entry Time	Permit Effective Date
Fremont Water Pollution Control Center 1019 Sand Street Fremont, OH 43420	9:15 am	9/20/2007
	Exit Time	Permit Expiration Date
	1:30 pm	01/31/2012
Name(s) and Title(s) of On-Site Representatives	Phone Number(s)	
James Johnson, Superintendent Jeff Lamson, Asst. Superintendent	419-334-3876	
Name, Address and Title of Responsible Official	Phone Number	
Mayor and Council City of Fremont 323 S. Front St Fremont, OH 43420	419-334-9556	

Section C: Areas Evaluated During Inspection					
(S = Satisfactory, M = Marginal, U = Unsatisfactory, N = Not Evaluated)					
S	Permit	S	Flow Measurement	S	Pretreatment
S	Records/Reports	N	Laboratory	S	Compliance Schedule
S	Operations & Maintenance	N	Effluent/Receiving Waters	S	Self-Monitoring Program
S	Facility Site Review	M	Sludge Storage/Disposal	N	Other
N	Collection System				

Section D: Summary of Findings (Attach additional sheets if necessary)			
<p>Review of Fremont's Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) has been completed and approved.</p> <p>The NPDES permit has been modified to include the LTCP schedule (Modification Effective Date: May 1, 2010).</p> <p>The leak in the west wall of the aeration tank has been patched with grout.</p> <p>Continued coordination with the superintendent of sewers is required for NPDES required reporting of separate sewer system overflows (SSO) and/or basement flooding.</p>			
Inspector		Reviewer	
 Mary Beth Cohen Division of Surface Water Northwest District Office		 Elizabeth A. Wick, P.E. Water Quality Engineer Division of Surface Water Northwest District Office	
4/29/10 Date		4/28/10 Date	

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)..... N/A
- (d) Flows and loadings conform with NPDES permit..... Y
- (e) Treatment processes are as described in permit application... Y
- (f) New treatment process(es) added since last inspection..... N
- (g) Notification given to State of new, different or increased discharges..... N/A
- (h) All discharges are permitted..... Y
- (i) Number and location of discharge points are as described in permit..... Y

Comments/Status:

The Intergrated Fixed-film Activated Sludge (IFAS) media is being removed and recycled.

**Section F: Compliance Schedules/Violations**

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

Comments/Status:

A chlorine violation occurred when the water line was shut off for repair, and no water was available to the water feed bisulfate.

**Section G: Operation & Maintenance**

**Treatment Works:**

Treatment facility properly operated and maintained

- (a) Standby power available....generator  or dual feed ..... Y
- (b) Adequate alarm system available for power or equipment failures.. Y
- (c) All treatment units in service other than backup units..... Y
- (d) Wastewater Treatment Works classification (OAC 3745-7)..... III
- (e) Operator of Record holds unexpired license of class required by permit..... Y  
 Class: III
- (f) Copy of certificate of Operator of Record displayed on-site..... N/E
- (g) Minimum operator staffing requirements fulfilled (OAC 3745-7)... Y
- (h) Routine and preventative maintenance scheduled/performed... Y
- (i) Any major equipment breakdown since last inspection..... N
- (j) Operation and maintenance manual provided and maintained.... Y
- (k) Any plant bypasses since last inspection..... N
- (l) Regulatory agency notified of bypasses..... Y  
 On MORs  and/or Spill Hotline (1-800-282-9378)
- (m) Any hydraulic and/or organic overloads since last inspection..... N

**Record Keeping:**

- (a) Log book provided..... N/E
- (b) Format of log book (i.e. computer log, hard bound book)
- (c) Log book(s) kept onsite (in an area protected from weather)..... N/E
- (d) Log book contains the following:
  - I. Identification of treatment works..... N/E
  - II. Date/times of arrival/departure for Operator of Record and any other operator required by OAC 3745-7..... N/E
  - III. Daily record of operation and maintenance activities (including preventative maintenance, repairs and request for repairs)..... N/E
  - IV. Laboratory results (unless documented on bench sheets)... N/A
  - V. Identification of person making log entries..... N/E
- (d) Has the operator of record submitted written notification to the permittee, Ohio EPA and (if applicable) any local environmental agencies when a collection system overflow, treatment plant bypass or effluent limit violation has occurred..... Y

**Section G: Operation & Maintenance (con't)**

**Collection System:**

- (a) Percent combined system: 65%
- (b) Any collection system overflows since last inspection..... Y  
(CSO  and/or SSO )
- (c) Regulatory agency notified of overflows (SSOs)..... N/A
- (d) CSO O&M plan provided and implemented..... Y
- (e) CSOs monitored and reported in accordance with permit..... Y
- (f) Portable pumps used to relieve system..... N/E
- (g) Lift station alarms provided and maintained..... Y
- (h) Are lift stations equipped with permanent standby power  
or equivalent..... Y
- (i) Is there an inflow/infiltration problem (separate sewer system),  
or were there any major repairs to collection system since  
last inspection..... Y
- (j) Any complaints received since last inspection of basement flooding N
- (k) Are any portions of the sewer system at or near capacity..... Y

**Comments/Status:**

Upgrades have been made to the settled sewage control panel.

Continued coordination with the superintendent of sewers is required for NPDES required reporting of separate sewer system overflows (SSO) and/or basement flooding.

Hydraulic overloads occur during rainfall and snow melt.

A grout patch has been applied to the leak in the west wall of the aeration tank.

**Section H: Sludge Management**

- (a) Sludge management plan (SMP)  
Submitted date: 02/06/2002 Approval #:03-428-PW Not submitted  N/A
- (b) Sludge management plan current..... Y
- (c) Sludge adequately disposed..... Y  
(Method:Land application)
- (d) If sludge is incinerated, where is ash disposed of
- (e) Is sludge disposal contracted..... Y  
(Name:Midwest Compost)
- (f) Has amount of sludge generated changed significantly since  
last inspection..... N
- (g) Adequate sludge storage provided at plant.....Y
- (h) Land application sites monitored and inspected per SMP..... Y
- (i) Records kept in accordance with State and Federal law..... Y
- (j) Any complaints received in last year regarding sludge..... N
- (k) Is sludge adequately processed (digestion, pathogen control)..... Y

**Comments/Status:**

A portable sludge press was used in March by Midwest Compost (contractor). 1.1 M-Gal of sludge was pressed and then land applied.

**Section I: Self-Monitoring Program**

**Flow Measurement:**

- (a) Primary flow measuring device operated and maintained..... Y  
Type of device: Ultrasonic & Parshall flume  Ultrasonic & Weir  Weir   
Calculated from influent  Other  (Specify: Magnetic Flow Meter)
- (b) Calibration frequency adequate ..... Y  
(Date of last calibration: )
- (c) Secondary instruments operated and maintained..... Y
- (d) Flow measurement equipment adequate to handle full range  
of flows..... Y
- (e) Actual flow discharged is measured..... Y
- (f) Flow measuring equipment inspection frequency  
Daily Weekly monthly other

**Comments/Status:**

**Section I: Self-Monitoring Program (con't)**

**Sampling:**

- (a) Sampling location(s) are as specified by permit..... Y
- (b) Parameters and sampling frequency agree with permit..... Y
- (c) Permittee uses required sampling method..... Y
- (d) Sample collection procedures are adequate..... Y
  - (i) Samples refrigerated during compositing..... Y
  - (ii) Proper preservation techniques used..... Y
  - (iii) Containers and sample holding times prior to analysis conform with 40 CFR 136.3..... Y
- (e) Monitoring records (i.e., flow, pH, DO) maintained for a minimum of three years including all original strip chart recordings (i.e, continuous monitoring instrumentation, calibration and maintenance records)..... Y
- (f) Adequate records maintained of sampling date, time, location, etc.. Y

**Laboratory:**

*General*

- (a) EPA approved analytical testing procedures used (40 CFR 136.3).. Y
- (b) If alternate analytical procedures are used, proper approval has been obtained..... N/A
- (c) Analyses being performed more frequently than required by permit. Y
- (d) If (c) is yes, are results in permittee's self-monitoring report..... Y
- (e) Commercial laboratory used..... Y

Parameters analyzed by commercial lab:

*Mercury, cyanide, hexavalent chromium, organics, TTOs, O&G, and TKN  
Sludge parameters: arsenic, selenium, molybdenum, phosphorus,  
potassium, fecal*

Lab name:

*Jones & Henry / ENO River Labs (PCB's) / A&L Labs (sludge fecals)*

*Quality Control/Quality Assurance*

- (f) Quality assurance manual provided and maintained..... Y
- (g) Satisfactory calibration and maintenance of instruments/equipment. Y
- (h) Adequate records maintained..... Y
- (i) Results of latest USEPA quality assurance performance sampling

program:  Satisfactory  Marginal  Unsatisfactory

Date: 2009 - DMQRA #29

**Comments/Status:**

**Section J: Effluent/Receiving Water Observations**

Outfall Number	Oil sheen	Grease	Turbidity	Visible Foam	Visible Floating Solids	Color	Other
001	None	None	None	None	None	Clear	

**Comments/Status:**

**Section K: Multimedia Observations**

- (a) Are there indications of sloppy housekeeping or poor maintenance in work and storage areas or laboratories..... N
- (b) Do you notice staining or discoloration of soils, pavement or floors.. N
- (c) Do you notice distressed (unhealthy, discolored, dead) vegetation.. N
- (d) Do you see unidentified dark smoke or dust clouds coming from sources other than smokestacks..... N
- (e) Do you notice any unusual odors or strong chemical smells..... N
- (f) Do you see any open or unmarked drums, unsecured liquids, or damaged containment facilities..... N

If any of the above are observed, ask the following questions:

- (1) What is the cause of the condition?
- (2) Is the observed condition or source a waste product?
- (3) Where is the suspected contaminant normally disposed?
- (4) Is this disposal permitted?
- (5) How long has the condition existed and when did it begin?

**Comments/Status:**

F. GU - 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	Out	
	Storm water Overflows	Out	
	Alternate Power Source	S	Three permanent generators @ plant w/ one portable for use in system
	Storm Ret. Pond / E.Q. Basin	In	Sand Road Pond - pond has capacity for additional flows
Preliminary	Maintenance of Collection Systems	-	
	Pump Station	In	
	Ventilation	In	
	Bar Screen	In	Two units (influent comes in at two different locations)
	Disposal of Screenings	S	Landfill
	Comminutor	In	
	Grit Chamber	In	Grit removal auger is run manually every 2 hours
	Disposal of Grit	S	Landfill
Primary	Grit Dewatering	In	Runs 12 X / day @ 15 min / run
	Settling Tanks	In	Two circular units, both in use
	Scum Removal	In	Landfill
	Sludge Removal	In	
Sludge Disposal	Effluent	S	Effluent was observed to have slight grey cast
	Digesters - Anaerobic	In	Two stage anaerobic units series (south digester lid caved in and now removed)
	Temperature and pH	S	Runs at 100' -102' F
	Gas Production	S	Flared off
	Heating Equipment	In	Boiler in operation (old unit as backup)
	Sludge Pumps	In	2 RAW, 3 RAS, 2 WAS, 2 Digested and 2 Thickener
	Sludge Storage	M	Limited storage capacity
	Disposal of Sludge	S	Land application
Other	Chemical Additive / Treatment	Out	Polymer and sodium bicarbonate added to sludge as needed
	Thickener / Holding	In	1 aerated thickener tank, 5 sludge holding tanks
	Flow Meter and Recorder	In	
	Records	S	
	Lab Controls	-	
Secondary Tertiary	Chemical Treatment	Out	Ferrous chloride for phosphorus removal (tank may need to be replaced)
	Chemical Treatment	Out	Phosphoric acid no longer being used
	Aeration Treatment (step feed)	In	6 tanks ( 2 in use with IFAS operations)
	Secondary Settling Tanks	In	3 tanks all in use - slight floc carryover observed
Disinfection	Aeration Blowers	In	2 of 4 in use
	Tertiary Sand Filters	In	All 4 units in use (cleaned as needed - super chlorinated)
	Effluent	S	Final effluent being discharged appeared to be clear
	Disinfection System	In	Sodium hypochlorite (used all year long to keep sand filters oxidized)
	Effective Dosage	S	
	Contact Time	S	
Disinfection	Contact Tank	In	
	Dechlorination	In	Sodium bisulfate - used all year long (tank may need to be replaced)
	Chlorine	Out	Chlorine used for RAS to control filamentous growth as needed