



Environmental
Protection Agency

John R. Kasich, Governor
Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor
Scott J. Nally, Director

Re: Sandusky County
Village of Helena
Sewerage

May 17, 2011

Mayor and Council
Village of Helena
504 Church Street
P. O. Box 85
Helena, Ohio 43435

Dear Mayor and Council:

On March 1, 2011, a preliminary inspection was made of the newly constructed wastewater treatment facility which serves the Village of Helena. Mr. Tom Frey, operator of this facility, Mr. Steve Shiets, Mr. Clay Schwochow and Zach Mulder (intern), were all present from the Sandusky County Sanitary Engineer's office. Additionally, Mr. Paul Damschroder, Village Council was also present.

The following items and observations were noted during the inspection:

1. New sanitary sewer installation and wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) construction was completed in October 2010. Start up of the WWTP occurred at that same time and individual taps were to have been initiated.
2. As of this date, there have been no discharge monitoring reports (e-DMR's) submitted to this office. Sandusky County Sanitary Engineers Office has indicated that there was no measurable "discharge" out of the sand filters to the final effluent flow meter.
3. An email from Steve Shiets (01/21/11) indicated that the plant is under operation and maintenance by the County (Tom Frey). It was indicated that no (e-DMR) reports had been sent because they were not getting any flow after the filtration process. He indicated that Mr. Tom Stalter, Poggemeyer Design Group, has been made aware of the issue, and that the contractor would be back to fix a broken pipe (thought to be causing the no flow problem).

4. The lack of flow from the newly constructed sand filters needs to be addressed. Please provide this office with detailed information regarding the construction of the filters, installation of the required impermeable liner, and test of the filter sand to meet the specifications.
5. It was indicated that higher than normal flows were received at the plant the day prior to this inspection. Northwest Ohio experienced heavy rains and rapid snow melt the previous day. As this facility was to have been constructed with new separate sanitary sewers and tap lines, the elevated flows are of great concern and need to be investigated.
6. Flows being received at the WWTP should be documented daily. This can be done with the main pump stations' pump run time meters. At the time of inspection, it was recommended that pump station flow data be obtained and retained starting on the day of the inspection. Please send a copy of all flow monitoring data collected to date to me at this office.
7. Three of the four surface sand filter beds were full. The two west filter beds were full to the top of the wall and the east most bed was observed to be actively overflowing the walls. It was indicated by the operator that there had been some operational issues with the sand filters as follows (also see #2 above):
 - The west two filters were in use for the previous two months, as the dosing tank discharge line going to the east two filters had frozen and could not be used.
 - The line to the east two filters may have frozen due to the pipe being shallow.
 - Mr. Frey indicated that due to some earlier needed adjustments with the sludge returns, solids had collected in the west two filters, causing them to 'plug' over time.
8. While it is recommended that large sand filter beds be further divided into smaller, more manageable units, the approved detail plans show two beds running east to west, while the sand filters as constructed include four beds, running north to south. This change included the need to install additional piping from the dosing station to the distribution box(s).

9. Mr. Frey indicated that there were two sludge returns and two surface skimmers. The approved detail plans show four (4) Geysers Pump sludge returns. Please provide documentation that the number and type of pumps indicated in the approved plans have been installed.

It is noted that this facility obtained funding through the Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (DEFA), and a more comprehensive review will be conducted by DEFA staff, in the near future.

Operator Log Requirements

Required record keeping and documentation at the facility must be implemented immediately. A log book must be developed to keep an up to date record for wastewater system operations and maintenance, which contains at a minimum, the following information:

- Identification of the sewerage system, or treatment works;
- dates and times of arrival and departure for the operator of record;
- specific operation and maintenance activities that affect or have the potential to affect the quality or quantity of sewage received and/or effluent produced;
- results of tests performed and samples taken, unless documented on a laboratory bench sheet;
- performance of preventative maintenance and repairs or requests for repair of the equipment that affect or have the potential to affect the quality or quantity of sewage conveyed, effluent produced;
- and identification of the persons making entries.

The records must be kept up to date, contain a minimum of three months data at all times, and be maintained on site for at least three years.

Additionally, the *Operator of Record (ORC) Notification Form* available at: <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/opcert/opcert.aspx> needs to be submitted.

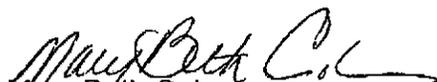
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OAC Chapter 3745-7-09: Operator Certification for Public Water Systems and Wastewater Treatment Works (copy enclosed) is available at:
<http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/opcert/opcert.aspx>.

Please provide a response to the above noted issues as soon as possible but no later than May 31, 2011.

If there are any questions, please advise.

Yours truly,


Mary Beth Cohen
Division of Surface Water

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Enclosure

pc: Steve Shiets, Sandusky County Sanitary Engineer
Sandusky County Health Department
Alauddin A. Alauddin, Ohio EPA-DEFA
NWDO - DSW File

ec: NWDO Follow-up File