



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

**Northwest District Office**

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

Re: Richland County  
Maria Manor  
NPDES Permit

March 24, 2009

Mr. Gerald Griffeth, Owner  
Maria Manor  
458 Vanderbilt Road  
Mansfield, Ohio 44904

Dear Mr. Griffeth:

On March 13, 2009, an inspection was made of the wastewater treatment facilities serving the Maria Manor located at 458 Vanderbilt Road, Mansfield, Richland County. At the time of the inspection several major concerns were noted with the treatment system. You were present during the inspection to answer any questions.

Construction had yet to begin on the lid to the existing aeration tank. The contents of the tank were grey and septic. This system will soon start to generate offensive odors due to the warmer weather. The surface sand filters are still in use. These filters are now receiving septic waste and remain a health hazard should anyone come in contact with the partially treated waste. A full bucket of chlorine tablets was observed spilled over and open near the chlorine tank. The tablet bucket should be cleaned up and stored in a secure area. You stated that the contractor was scheduled to be out the first week in April 2009 to complete the work on the aeration tank and sand filter.

During the inspection, groundwater was observed flowing out of the inspection ports at the ends of the leaching tile field. The ground water pressure was strong enough to dislodge the top joint on the inspection ports and "pop" the lids off. Clear groundwater was observed flowing from the inspection ports and across the tile field. This condition appeared to have been taking place for some time since well defined drainage channels had formed flowing away from the area.

It is apparent that the perched water table may be much higher than reported in the soils analysis submitted to our office. Improvements to the tile field will need to be made. The existing subsurface system will no longer be acceptable. Our office recommends that an elevated tile field be installed. This would consist of removing the buried chamber leaching system and installing this system at or above the current ground elevation. The chambers would then need to be covered with an acceptable depth of soil.

It will be necessary to submit to our office a report from your engineer on what steps will be taken to correct the problems observed with the leaching field. This report shall be submitted to our office **no later than 14 days** from receipt of this letter. A new Permit to Install (PTI) will need to be submitted for the redesigned leaching field. This PTI shall be submitted to our **office no later than 45 days** from the date of this letter.

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Our office still considers the wastewater system to be discharging to waters of the state. Until the new leaching field and all of the upgrades to the existing system previously approved are completed the facility's NPDES permit will remain effective.

If you have any questions please call me at 419-373-3070. It may be advantageous for you to schedule a meeting with our office and your engineer prior to submitting the corrective action report mentioned above.

Sincerely,



Walter Ariss  
Environmental Specialist II  
Division of Surface Water

/csi

pc:  NWDO-DSW file  
McGhee's Technical Water Services Inc.