



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

STREET ADDRESS

Central District Office

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December 11, 2006

Rick Westerfield.
City of Columbus
Department of Public Utilities, Water Division
Utility Complex 910 Dublin Road
Columbus, Ohio 43215-9052

Dear Mr. Westerfield:

This letter is written as a follow up to the storm water inspection I conducted of the construction activities associated with State Route 62 and Morse Road in Franklin County on November 28, 2006. During this inspection I noted a ruptured waterline and the associated impacts to Rocky Fork Creek. This letter is intended as a request for additional information regarding the prioritization of mobilizing field units to shut down ruptured waterlines to minimize impacts to waters of the state.

During the evening of November 27, 2006, I was contacted by Mark Waite of the Franklin County Engineers Office. Mr. Waite informed me a contractor had ruptured a 20 inch force main waterline concurrent with construction activities adjacent to Rocky Fork Creek. As a result, the construction site adjacent to Rock Fork Creek was inundated with water from the ruptured line. The flow of water from this line over disturbed soils resulted in turbid discharges to Rocky Fork Creek (see photos).

Mr. Waite further informed me he made an attempt to contact the City of Columbus to shut down this waterline to further minimize the impacts to Rocky Fork Creek. Mr. Waite was informed that a supervisor would contact him during the evening of November 27, 2006. According to Mr. Waite, the return phone call did not occur.

According to my conversations with onsite personnel significant turbid discharges to Rocky Fork Creek were occurring for over an 18 hour period. At this time I am requesting further information regarding this response to evaluate improvement opportunities to minimize these types of impacts in the future.

Bob Taft, Governor
Bruce Johnson, Lieutenant Governor
Joseph P. Koncelik, Director



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Please note that the City of Columbus is covered under a Storm Water Permit with Ohio EPA. There are specific conditions within this permit which require the City of Columbus to prohibit spills, dumping, or disposal of materials other than storm water into waters of the state. At this time I am asking you to investigate this situation and take all means necessary to ensure that environmental issues are assessed when promptly mobilizing field units to shut down ruptured waterlines.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at our Central District Office at (614) 728-3844.

Sincerely,



Harry Kallipolitis
Storm Water Coordinator
Division of Surface Water
Central District Office

c: Jeff Bohne, DSW/CDO
Mark Waite, Franklin County Engineers
Lynn E. Kelly (same address)
C. Kchlmier (same address)