Ohio | Environmental Protection Agency
John R. Kasich, Governor
Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor
Scott J. Nally, Director

October 21, 2011

RE: HOLMES COUNTY
MECHANIC TOWNSHIP
CLARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
OHIO EPA PERMIT NO.
3PT00061*CD

Mr. Troy Snyder, Maintenance Supervisor
West Holmes Local Schools
28 West Jackson Street
Millersburg, OH 44654

Dear Mr. Snyder:

On September 27, 2011, a site inspection was conducted at the above referenced facility at 1390 State Route 83, Mechanic Township, Holmes County. During the inspection, I was accompanied by Dean Stoll of Ohio EPA and Kraig Bucklew of the Holmes County Health Department. The purpose of the inspection was to evaluate the facility's compliance status with respect to the terms and conditions of the facility's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

The 5,000 gallons per day extended aeration plant (treatment works) consists of a trash trap, lift station, aerated equalization tank, extended aeration system with clarifier, lift station/dosing chamber, surface sand filtration, chlorine disinfection, dechlorination, and post-disinfection aeration. Sludge management consists of sludge removal when needed to another treatment works. The facility discharges to the east side roadside ditch along State Route 83 to Doughty Creek west of the facility.

Observations

The following observations were made during the inspection:

1. The content of the aeration tank had a slight earthy odor, chocolate brown color with good mixing. The blowers were running and the treatment works was receiving sufficient aeration. The color and aeration of the wastewater are indicative of a properly operating aeration system.

2. Effluent channels and weirs were clean. The sludge return lines were operating properly at the time of the inspection.

3. Surface sand filters were in good operational condition.

4. Chlorination and dechlorination systems were stocked with appropriate chemicals. The tank contents were clear. Unfortunately, it appears that the wastewater is leaking through the baffle located within the dechlorination system and is not properly contacting the dechlorination tablets prior to discharge (Figure 1). In addition, the effluent was not being discharged via the discharge pipe to the receiving stream (Figure 1). The chlorine contact tank should be evaluated to determine if it is leaking. Proper maintenance activities must be implemented to address the findings of the evaluation.

NPDES Permit Compliance Review

A review of the electronic discharge self-monitoring reports (eDMR) received by Ohio EPA for the period September 1, 2010 through October 1, 2011, indicates noncompliance of the terms and conditions of your NPDES permit as identified below:

Frequency Violations

284 violations for Color, Severity (Reporting Code: 00083); one violation for Flow Rate (Reporting Code: 00056); 284 violations for Odor, Severity (Reporting Code: 01330); and 284 violations for Turbidity, Severity (Reporting Code: 01350) have occurred for Station 001.

Please be aware that Color, Severity (Reporting Code: 00083); Flow Rate (Reporting Code: 00056); Odor, Severity (Reporting Code: 01330); and Turbidity, Severity (Reporting Code: 01350) must be monitored daily and reported to Ohio EPA utilizing eDMR.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at your earliest convenience at (330) 963-1118 or via e-mail at chris.moody@epa.ohio.gov.

Sincerely,

Chris Moody.
Environmental Specialist II
Division of Surface Water

CM:bo

pc: Kraig Bucklew, Holmes County Health Department

ec: Dean Stoll, Ohio EPA

Figure 1 - Wastewater is leaking through the baffle located within the dechlorination system and is not contacting the dechlorination tablets. The effluent was not being discharged via the discharge pipe to the receiving stream.