



Environmental  
Protection Agency

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

Re: Putnam County  
Columbus Grove  
NPDES Permit

October 13, 2011

Mr. Jeff Vance  
Columbus Grove WWTP  
113 East Sycamore Street  
Columbus Grove, Ohio 45830

Dear Mr. Vance

On September 28, 2011, an inspection was conducted at the Village of Columbus Grove's Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). Mr. Bob Huff was present and provided operation and maintenance information on the plant. The final effluent discharge observed at the chlorine contact tank was cloudy with no noticeable odor.

It was noted that the trickling filter arms for the secondary trickling filter have been removed for the filter arm replacement project. It was also noted that the sludge wasting pump that pulls sludge from the primary clarifiers was not working. The pump needs to be repaired to properly handle sludge in the clarifiers.

I observed that filling and grading activities have occurred at the west side of the WWTP along Plum Creek. It appeared that over one acre has been disturbed. Storm water runoff from construction activities which will result in a cumulative earth disturbance of one acre or more are required to have permit coverage under Ohio EPA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activities (Construction General Permit, or CGP). Construction activities include, but are not limited to: clearing, grading, grubbing, filling, and excavating. We do not have record of permit coverage being granted for this project. **Failure to obtain NPDES permit coverage prior to this is a violation of Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Section 6111.04.**

The steps to obtain NPDES permit coverage as well as copies of the Construction General Permit and the Notice Of Intent (NOI) application form can be found at: [http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/storm/construction\\_index.aspx](http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/storm/construction_index.aspx). Please complete and submit an NOI application to obtain Construction General Permit coverage. This application must be mailed to our Central Office (address provided in the instructions) and a copy to the Northwest District Office (NWDO) within ten days of the date on this letter. Your response to the Northwest District Office must include the dates, either actual or proposed, for completion of any actions taken to insure compliance with the CGP. Sediment and erosion controls did not appear to be implemented.

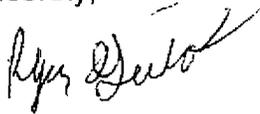
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I recommend installing sediment controls to intercept runoff before it enters a drainage system or adjacent properties. Any areas of disturbed ground, including portions of the berm, that will not be worked for 21 days must have at least temporary stabilization applied within the first seven (7) of those 21 days.

If you feel this letter is in error, your response to NWDO must indicate the reasons, along with a scaled site map showing the limits of disturbance for the entire project, or a copy of your approval letter granting coverage under the CGP.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (419) 373-3053. If you have any storm water questions, please contact Lynette Hablitzel at 419-373-3009

Sincerely,



Ryan Gierhart  
Division of Surface Water

/l/r

pc: Mayor and Council  
DSW-NWDO File