



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Northeast District Office

2110 East Aurora Rd.
Twinsburg, Ohio 44087

TELE: (330) 963-1200 FAX: (330) 487-0769
www.epa.state.oh.us

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

May 7, 2009

RE: CITY OF ALLIANCE WWTP
NPDES #3PD00000

Mayor and Council
City of Alliance
504 East Main Street
Alliance, OH 44601

Dear Mayor and Council:

A compliance evaluation inspection (CEI) of the Alliance Waste Water Treatment Plant was conducted by this writer on May 5, 2009. Present during the inspection were Joe Amabeli, Superintendent, and Doug Hastings, Assistant Superintendent, Alliance Waste Water Treatment Plant and Mark Bergman and Scott Winkler, Ohio EPA NEDO.

At the time of the inspection, the treatment plant was producing what appeared to be a satisfactory quality effluent. The mixed liquor in the aeration tanks had a good color and the plant was producing a clear effluent. Algae was noted in the secondary clarifier weirs.

Three aeration tanks are used for wastewater treatment. Four aeration tanks are used for flow equalization and the remaining aeration tank is used to store landfill leachate. Approximately 300,000 gallons of leachate was stored in this tank. A new concrete pad has been installed at the south side of the aeration tanks to allow trucks access to the leachate storage tank.

A second pump has been added to the raw influent flow equalization pump station #2. Construction has begun on the primary screw pumps replacement. The middle screw pump has been removed and submersible pumps have been installed. The pumps are to be started on May 6, 2009.

Other improvements include upgrades to one primary clarifier, one secondary clarifier and a gravity thickener. The tanks will be sand blasted and painted. The clarifiers will be equipped with new skimmer mechanisms and new stilling baffles. The gravity thickener will have the skimmer removed. This project is expected to be being in June 2009 and be completed by the end of the year.

A water and sewer rate study is being conducted for the City. It has been five years since the last rate study.

The flow equalization basin was empty at the time of the inspection. A review of our records covering the period August 2008 through March 2009 revealed treatment plant bypasses occurred on the following dates:

Date	Bypass From EQ Basin (MG = million gallons)	Raw Bypass Volume (MG = million gallons)
9/13/2008	N/A	0.012 MG
3/9/2009	0.113 MG	N/A

Mayor and Council
City of Alliance WWTP
May 7, 2009
Page 2

During the inspection Mr. Amabeli indicated that the flow meters have not been calibrated in over a year. The flow meters must be calibrated at least annually to ensure accurate flow measurement. This was also noted in my previous inspection letter. A new influent flow meter will be installed at the treatment plant on May 7, 2009.

A review of your discharge monitoring reports (DMRs) covering the period July 2008 through March 2009 revealed the following effluent violation:

Reporting Period	Station	Parameter	Limit Type	Limit	Reported Value	Violation Date
July 2008	001	Oil and Grease, Hexane	1D Conc	10.0	10.6	7/23/2008

The treatment plant laboratory conducts all chemical analyses for NPDES reporting except for thallium, cyanide, priority pollutants and sludge potassium. The final effluent composite sampler had a temperature of six degrees centigrade. The influent composite sampler had a temperature of four degrees centigrade. These temperatures are in the accepted range.

The chemical analyses for low level mercury are conducted at the Alliance WWTP laboratory. During the inspection, it was discovered that the method detection level achieved by the lab when using Method 1631 is 20 ng/l. Part II, item X of your NPDES permit requires you to utilize Method 1631 with a method detection level of 0.2 ng/l. This will require you to modify your laboratory procedures or use a contract laboratory for mercury analyses.

Should you have any questions or comments regarding this letter, please contact this office at (330) 963-1197.

Sincerely,



Dean W. Stoll, P.E.
Environmental Engineer
Division of Surface Water

DWS/mt

cc: Joseph Amabeli, Superintendent, Alliance WWTP

File: Public/Permit Compliance