



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Northeast District Office

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

June 16, 2008

RE: PUBLIC WASTEWATER
DAMASCUS POTW
NPDES PERMIT NO. 3PA00037
2008 CEI

Board of Mahoning County Commissioners
21 West Boardman Street
Youngstown, OH 44503

Dear Gentlemen:

On May 20, 2008, this writer conducted an inspection of the Damascus wastewater treatment system. The intent of the inspection was to evaluate the condition and the compliance status of the treatment system. Representing the county during the inspection was Guy Maiorana.

The treatment plant was considered satisfactory at the time of the inspection. All mechanical devices were operational at the time of the inspection. The aeration tank had a good color and the return sludge was a medium brown color. The color of both the aeration tank and the return sludge indicated a healthy biomass in the system necessary for proper treatment of wastewater. The effluent was clear and no change in appearance of the stream substrate was observed upstream and downstream of the outfall.

The surface sand filters continue to have a heavy solids load from the upflow clarifiers. The filters should accumulate only a slight layer of solids rather than the heavy layer that has been apparent during the past three inspections. Heavy solids deposition requires frequent removal and disposal.

Mr. Maiorana and this writer discussed the possibility of using only the upflow clarifiers in which the media had been removed. It was thought that the heavy accumulation of solids on the filters was caused by the release of sludge from the media. It was agreed that the county would consider using only the upflow clarifiers without the settling media to see if this reduces the solids load to the filters.

A review of the compliance record for the treatment plant was made during this inspection. The record of review was the Monthly Operating Reports for the period covering March 2007 through May 2008. Following are violations noted during the inspection.

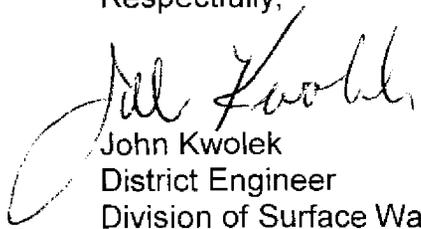
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Parameter	Limit Type	Limit	Units	Reported Value	Reporting Period
Fecal Coliform	7D Conc.	2000	#/100 ml	3310	10/8/2007
Nitrogen, Ammonia	7D Conc	4.5	mg/l	16.0	2/15/2008
Nitrogen, Ammonia	30D Conc	3.0	mg/l	8.2	2/1/2006
Nitrogen, Ammonia	7D Qty.	1.36	kg/d	3.27	2/15/2008
Nitrogen, Ammonia	30D Qty.	0.91	kg/d	1.68	2/1/2008
Nitrogen, Ammonia	7D Conc	4.5	mg/l	15.1	3/1/2008
Nitrogen, Ammonia	30D Conc	3.0	mg/l	8.6	3/1/2006
Nitrogen, Ammonia	7D Qty.	1.36	kg/d	3.66	3/1/2008
Nitrogen, Ammonia	30D Qty.	0.91	kg/d	2.01	3/1/2008

It is possible that the sludge deposited on the sand filters may be releasing ammonia over time. This has been observed at other treatment plants with slow surface sand filters. The county must determine the cause of the ammonia violations and take corrective actions where necessary.

You may contact this office at (330) 963-1251 to discuss any questions you may have.

Respectfully,



John Kwolek
District Engineer
Division of Surface Water

JK/mt

cc: Joseph Warino, County Sanitary Engineer
Al Deibel, Mahoning County Boardman POTW
Guy Maiorana, Mahoning County Campbell POTW