



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Northwest District Office

347 North Dunbridge Road
Bowling Green, OH 43402-9398

TELE: (419) 352-8461 FAX: (419) 352-8468
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Ted Strickland, Governor
Lee Fisher, Lieutenant Governor
Chris Korleski, Director

Re: Allen County
Village of Bluffton
NPDES Permit

March 25, 2008

Mayor and Council
Village of Bluffton
100 E. Elm Street
P.O. Box 63
Bluffton, Ohio 45817

Dear Mayor and Council:

On March 13, 2008, a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit compliance inspection was conducted at the Village of Bluffton wastewater treatment plant. Mr. Dan Bowden and Mr. John Bowers were present and provided information on operation and maintenance of the Village's wastewater treatment and collection system. The inspection included completion of the enclosed NPDES Compliance Inspection Report and observation of all combined sewer overflows (CSOs) and the wastewater treatment plant.

During our visit, all treatment units were in service. The final effluent discharging to Riley Creek was clear. However, no samples were taken to verify compliance with NPDES permit limits. One effluent violation (CBOD in August 2007) has been reported since our last inspection.

The Schedule of Compliance outlined in your NPDES permit, based on your General Plan of Improvements for CSO Elimination approved January 16, 1996, required all CSOs to be eliminated by September 30, 2007. The Jefferson Street CSO (Station #2PC00005023) was recently eliminated. The effluent pipe was removed and the manhole overflow was plugged with concrete. Mr. Bowers explained that a pneumatic "test ball" type plug has been inserted into the effluent pipe of the Riley and Spring Street CSO (Station # 2PC00005021) as a temporary measure to determine whether this CSO can also be permanently eliminated.

The compliance schedule also requires written status reports on CSO elimination to be submitted every six months, beginning six months (March 1, 2007) after the effective date of this permit. To date, only one status report has been received (on December 3, 2007). Please ensure that these status reports are submitted in March and September each year until all CSOs are permanently eliminated.

Mayor and Council
March 25, 2008
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As discussed, a mercury variance application or letter showing your intent to comply with final mercury limits is required by April 1, 2008.

Mr. Bowden stated that he is currently developing a log book to meet the record keeping requirements that are outlined in the Operator Certification Rules found in Ohio Administrative Code Section 3745-07.

A copy of our completed inspection checklist is enclosed for your records. If you have any questions, please call Tom Poffenbarger at (419) 373-3008.

Yours truly,



Allen L. Rupp, P.E.
District Engineer/Section Manager
Division of Surface Water

TP/lir

pc: DSW-NWDO File w/enclosure

Permit #: 2PC00005
 NPDES #: OH0020851



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
 Northwest District Office

NPDES Compliance Inspection Report

Section A: National Data System Coding					
Permit #	NPDES#	Month/Day/Year	Inspection Type	Inspector	Facility Type
2PC00005	OH0020851	03/13/08	C	S	1

Section B: Facility Data		
Name and Location of Facility Inspected	Entry Time	Permit Effective Date
Bluffton Wastewater Treatment Plant 450 North Spring Street Bluffton, Ohio 45817	9:30 AM	9/1/2006
	Exit Time	Permit Expiration Date
	11:15 AM	7/31/2011
Name(s) and Title(s) of On-Site Representatives		Phone Number(s)
Mr. Dan Bowden, Superintendent Mr. John Bowers, Service Employee		419-358-2056 419-358-2066
Name, Address and Title of Responsible Official		Phone Number
Mayor and Council Village of Bluffton 100 E. Elm Street, P.O. Box 63 Bluffton, Ohio 45817		419-358-2066

Section C: Areas Evaluated During Inspection			
(S = Satisfactory, M = Marginal, U = Unsatisfactory, N = Not Evaluated)			
S	Permit	S	Flow Measurement
S	Pretreatment	S	Laboratory
U	Records/Reports	S	Effluent/Receiving Waters
S	Operations & Maintenance	S	Sludge Storage/Disposal
S	Facility Site Review	S	Other
U	Collection System		

Section D: Summary of Findings (Attach additional sheets if necessary)	
<p>Effluent being discharged to Riley Creek was clear.</p> <p>Schedule of compliance required all CSOs to be eliminated by September 30, 2007; CSO status reports to be submitted every six months (one has been received); Mercury variance application or compliance letter is due April 1, 2008.</p> <p>The Jefferson Street CSO (Station # 2PC00005023) has been eliminated. The Riley and Spring Street CSO (Station # 2PC00005021) has been temporarily plugged with a pneumatic "test ball" device.</p> <p>Facility is currently developing a log book to meet record keeping requirements.</p>	
Inspector	Reviewer
 Thomas Poffenbarger, P.E. Date 3/14/08 District Engineer Division of Surface Water Northwest District Office	 Elizabeth A. Wick, P.E. Date 3/12/08 Water Quality Engineer Division of Surface Water Northwest District Office

Sections E thru K: Complete on all inspections as appropriate
Y – Yes, N – No, N/A – Not Applicable, N/E – Not Evaluated

Section E: Permit Verification

Inspection observations verify the permit

- (a) Correct name and mailing address of permittee Y
- (b) Correct name and location of receiving waters..... Y
- (c) Product(s) and production rates conform with permit application (Industries)..... N/A
- (d) Flows and loadings conform with NPDES permit..... Y
- (e) Treatment processes are as described in permit application... Y
- (f) New treatment process(es) added since last inspection..... N
- (g) Notification given to State of new, different or increased discharges..... Y
- (h) All discharges are permitted..... Y
- (i) Number and location of discharge points are as described in permit..... Y

Comments/Status:

Section F: Compliance Schedules/Violations

- (a) Any significant violations since the last inspection..... N
- (b) Permittee is taking actions to resolve violations..... N/A
- (c) Permittee has a compliance schedule..... Y
- (d) Compliance schedule contained in NPDES Permit
- (e) Permittee is meeting compliance schedule..... N

Comments/Status:

(a) One effluent violation (CBOD loading - August 2007) has been reported since the last inspection.

(d) Schedule of compliance required all CSOs to be eliminated by September 30, 2007 - (the Jefferson Street CSO has been eliminated); CSO status reports to be submitted every six months (one has been received); Mercury variance application or compliance letter is due April 1, 2008.

Section G: Operation & Maintenance

Treatment Works:

Treatment facility properly operated and maintained

- (a) Standby power available.....generator or dual feed Y
- (b) Adequate alarm system available for power or equipment failures.. Y
- (c) All treatment units in service other than backup units..... Y
- (d) Wastewater Treatment Works classification (OAC 3745-7)..... III
- (e) Operator of Record holds unexpired license of class required by permit..... Y
Class: III
- (f) Copy of certificate of Operator of Record displayed on-site..... Y
- (g) Minimum operator staffing requirements fulfilled (OAC 3745-7)... N/A
- (h) Routine and preventative maintenance scheduled/performed... Y
- (i) Any major equipment breakdown since last inspection..... N
- (j) Operation and maintenance manual provided and maintained..... Y
- (k) Any plant bypasses since last inspection..... N
- (l) Regulatory agency notified of bypasses..... N/A
On MORs and/or Spill Hotline (1-800-282-9378)
- (m) Any hydraulic and/or organic overloads since last inspection..... Y

Record Keeping:

- (a) Log book provided..... Y
- (b) Format of log book (i.e. computer log, hard bound book)

Hard bound book

- (c) Log book(s) kept onsite (in an area protected from weather)..... Y
- (d) Log book contains the following:
 - I. Identification of treatment works..... Y
 - II. Date/times of arrival/departure for Operator of Record and any other operator required by OAC 3745-7..... Y
 - III. Daily record of operation and maintenance activities (including preventative maintenance, repairs and request for repairs)..... Y
 - IV. Laboratory results (unless documented on bench sheets)... Y
 - V. Identification of person making log entries..... Y
- (d) Has the operator of record submitted written notification to the permittee, Ohio EPA and (if applicable) any local environmental agencies when a collection system overflow, treatment plant bypass or effluent limit violation has occurred..... Y

Section G: Operation & Maintenance (con't)

Collection System:

- (a) Percent combined system: 0%
- (b) Any collection system overflows since last inspection..... Y
(CSO and/or SSO)
- (c) Regulatory agency notified of overflows (SSOs)..... Y
- (d) CSO O&M plan provided and implemented..... N
- (e) CSOs monitored and reported in accordance with permit..... Y
- (f) Portable pumps used to relieve system..... N
- (g) Lift station alarms provided and maintained..... Y
- (h) Are lift stations equipped with permanent standby power
or equivalent..... Y
- (i) Is there an inflow/infiltration problem (separate sewer system),
or were there any major repairs to collection system since
last inspection..... Y
- (j) Any complaints received since last inspection of basement flooding Y
- (k) Are any portions of the sewer system at or near capacity..... Y

Comments/Status:

- (d) Village does not have a CSO O&M plan, Nine minimum controls are required by NPDES permit
- (e) CSOs are monitored weekly and during significant rainfall events.
- (g) Visual alarms are provided on lift stations.
- (h) Lift stations are equipped with portable generator hookups
- (i) The Harmon Street sewer was replaced. A force main rupture was repaired this week.

Section H: Sludge Management

- (a) Sludge management plan (SMP)
Submitted date: Approval #: Not submitted N/A
- (b) Sludge management plan current..... N/A
(c) Sludge adequately disposed..... Y
(Method: Land Applied)
(d) If sludge is incinerated, where is ash disposed of
(e) Is sludge disposal contracted..... Y
(Name: Soil Tech)
(f) Has amount of sludge generated changed significantly since
last inspection..... N
(g) Adequate sludge storage provided at plant..... Y
(h) Land application sites monitored and inspected per SMP..... Y
(i) Records kept in accordance with State and Federal law..... Y
(j) Any complaints received in last year regarding sludge..... N
(k) Is sludge adequately processed (digestion, pathogen control)..... Y

Comments/Status:

Section I: Self-Monitoring Program

Flow Measurement:

- (a) Primary flow measuring device operated and maintained..... Y
Type of device: Ultrasonic & Parshall flume Ultrasonic & Weir Weir
Calculated from influent Other (Specify:)
- (b) Calibration frequency adequate N
(Date of last calibration:)
- (c) Secondary instruments operated and maintained..... Y
(d) Flow measurement equipment adequate to handle full range
of flows..... Y
(e) Actual flow discharged is measured..... N
(f) Flow measuring equipment inspection frequency
 Daily Weekly monthly other

Comments/Status:

(b) A new flow meter is on order. Existing flow meter has not been calibrated since installation.

Section I: Self-Monitoring Program (con't)

Sampling:

- (a) Sampling location(s) are as specified by permit..... Y
- (b) Parameters and sampling frequency agree with permit..... Y
- (c) Permittee uses required sampling method..... Y
- (d) Sample collection procedures are adequate..... Y
 - (i) Samples refrigerated during compositing..... Y
 - (ii) Proper preservation techniques used..... Y
 - (iii) Containers and sample holding times prior to analysis conform with 40 CFR 136.3..... Y
- (e) Monitoring records (i.e., flow, pH, DO) maintained for a minimum of three years including all original strip chart recordings (i.e., continuous monitoring instrumentation, calibration and maintenance records)..... Y
- (f) Adequate records maintained of sampling date, time, location, etc.. Y

Laboratory:

General

- (a) EPA approved analytical testing procedures used (40 CFR 136.3).. Y
 - (b) If alternate analytical procedures are used, proper approval has been obtained..... Y
 - (c) Analyses being performed more frequently than required by permit. N
 - (d) If (c) is yes, are results in permittee's self-monitoring report..... N/A
 - (e) Commercial laboratory used..... Y
- Parameters analyzed by commercial lab: All parameters except pH and dissolved oxygen

Lab name: Alloway

Quality Control/Quality Assurance

- (f) Quality assurance manual provided and maintained..... Y
- (g) Satisfactory calibration and maintenance of instruments/equipment. Y
- (h) Adequate records maintained..... Y
- (i) Results of latest USEPA quality assurance performance sampling program: Satisfactory Marginal Unsatisfactory

Date:

Comments/Status:

Section J: Effluent/Receiving Water Observations

Outfall Number	Oil sheen	Grease	Turbidity	Visible Foam	Visible Floating Solids	Color	Other
001	none	none	clear	none	noen	clear	

Comments/Status:

Section K: Multimedia Observations

- (a) Are there indications of sloppy housekeeping or poor maintenance in work and storage areas or laboratories..... N
- (b) Do you notice staining or discoloration of soils, pavement or floors.. N
- (c) Do you notice distressed (unhealthy, discolored, dead) vegetation.. N
- (d) Do you see unidentified dark smoke or dust clouds coming from sources other than smokestacks..... N
- (e) Do you notice any unusual odors or strong chemical smells..... N
- (f) Do you see any open or unmarked drums, unsecured liquids, or damaged containment facilities..... N

If any of the above are observed, ask the following questions:

- (1) What is the cause of the condition?
- (2) Is the observed condition or source a waste product?
- (3) Where is the suspected contaminant normally disposed?
- (4) Is this disposal permitted?
- (5) How long has the condition existed and when did it begin?

Comments/Status:

RATING CODES: S = Satisfactory; U = Unsatisfactory; M = Marginal; IN = In Operation; OUT = Out of Operation

CONDITION OR APPEARANCE		RATING	COMMENTS
General	Grounds	S	
	Buildings	S	
	Potable Water Supply Protection	--	
	Safety Features	S	Fence Surrounding Plant
	Bypasses	--	
	Stormwater Overflows	--	
	Alternate Power Source	S	Generator
Preliminary	Maintenance of Collection Systems	S	
	Pump Station	IN	3 Raw Wastewater Pumps (variable speed)
	Ventilation	S	
	Bar Screen	IN	Mechanically cleaned fine bar screen
	Disposal of Screenings	S	Landfilled
	Comminutor	--	
	Grit Chamber	IN	Vortex Grit Removal System
	Disposal of Grit	S	Landfilled
Screen Basket	OUT	Used as a back-up unit if bar screen is out of operation	
Primary	Settling Tanks	--	
	Scum Removal	--	
	Sludge Removal	--	
	Effluent	--	
Sludge Disposal	Digesters	IN	Aerobic (2 Units)
	Temperature and pH	--	
	Gas Production	--	
	Heating Equipment	--	
	Sludge Pumps	IN	2 RAS/WAS ; 1 transfer pump
	Drying Beds	OUT	2 Beds
	Vacuum Filter	--	
	Disposal of Sludge	S	Land Applied
	Belt Press	IN	Operated approximately 2 weeks 4 times per year
Sludge Storage	IN		
Other	Flow Meter and Recorder	IN	Electromagnetic on influent
	Records	--	
	Lab Controls	--	
	Chemical Treatment	IN	Polymer for sludge dewatering ; Alum for phosphorus removal
Secondary - Tertiary	Aeration Basins	IN	2 Units
	Secondary Clarifiers	IN	2 Units
	Post Aeration	IN	2 Units
Disinfection	Effluent	S	Clear
	Disinfection System	OUT	Ultraviolet (2 Units)
	Effective Dosage	--	
	Contact Time	--	
	Contact Tank	--	
	Dechlorination	--	