



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
www.epa.state.oh.us

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

Re: **Notice of Violation**
Allen County
City of Lima WWTP
NPDES Permit

September 26, 2008

Mayor and Council
City of Lima
50 Town Square
Lima, Ohio 45801

Dear Mayor and Council:

On August 24, 2008, a telephone report was received from the Lima Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) for a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit violation for CBOD. A follow-up telephone call was received at the Northwest District Office on August 25, 2008. Mr. Russell Bales, WWTP Supervisor, indicated that the wastewater treatment plant received a shock pollutant load causing the contents of aeration tanks and clarifiers to turn black in color. Mr. Bales reported that no bacteriologic activity or dissolved oxygen was present in the aeration tanks.

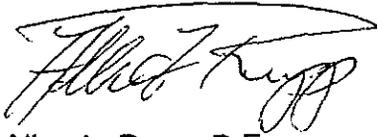
On August 25, 2008, we conducted an inspection at the plant. Mr. Gary Sheely, Mr. Dave Schnipke, Mr. Russell Bales, Mr. Wade Leimeister, Mr. Steve Ford and Mr. Jerry Coffey were present and provided information regarding the incident. Most of the wastewater in the plant was black and septic. The final effluent being discharged to the Ottawa River was turbid with a brown tint and had a large amount of white foam. Increased recirculation through the nitrification towers was being performed in an effort to increase treatment and dissolved oxygen levels.

Your staff indicated that a shock pollutant load was initially received at the treatment plant on August 16th. The plant had slowly recovered until a second shock load was received on August 21st, causing the severe impact to the treatment process. As discussed with your staff on August 25, 2008, due to the potential impact on the environment, the initial incident on August 16th should have been reported to our office within twenty-four (24) hours of discovery. Our interpretation of the incident indicates that it was a violation of Part III, Section 12 - General Conditions of your NPDES permit which require incidents which result in "Any noncompliance which may endanger health or the environment" to be reported to our "spill" number (1-800-282-9378) within 24 hours of discovery.

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Please inform this office in writing as to the procedures that will be implemented to correct these reporting deficiencies. If you have any questions, please call Mr. Thomas Poffenbarger at (419)373-3008.

Yours truly,



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

TP/csl

pc: Mr. Dave Schnipke, Lima,
Mr. Russell Bales, Lima WWTP
(DSW-NWDO File)