



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Northwest District Office

347 North Dunbridge Rd.
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: Ashland County
American Augers
NPDES Permit

April 7, 2009

Mr. Roger Eichel
American Augers
135 U.S. 42
West Salem, Ohio 44287

Dear Mr. Eichel:

On March 24, 2009, an inspection was conducted of the wastewater facilities serving American Augers located at 135 U.S. 42, Jackson Township, Ashland County. At the time of the inspection the plant was operating in a satisfactory manner and no major concerns were noted. Mr. Dave Pitsenbarger, your Certified Operator, was present during the inspection to answer questions regarding plant operations.

The condition of the plant during the inspection was unsatisfactory. It appeared as if a high flow event had pushed the solids out of the aeration tanks through the upflow clarifier tanks and onto the sand filter beds. It was evident in the upflow clarifier tanks that the level of the water in the tanks had been above the influent splitter pipe, as dried sludge material was observed on top of the pipe. Both surface sand filters were full of sludge. The eastern sand bed was not in use; however, a heavy layer of dried sludge was waiting to be scraped off. The western bed was in use and ponded. A heavy amount of floating sludge was present in this filter.

It will be necessary to clean all of the units following the settling tanks. The upflow clarifiers, filter dosing station, sand beds, and chlorine tank should all be pumped down and washed out to assure that no residual solids remain in the bottoms of these tanks. It would be acceptable to pump this water back through the treatment plant in order to drain the tanks. The cause of the high flows should be investigated. It may be possible that someone made an inappropriate connection to the sewer system as part of the construction project taking place on site.

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A review of your discharge monitoring reports for the months of September 2007, through February 2009, revealed one **violation** of the limits contained in your NPDES permit. This violation was for exceeding the allowed ammonia concentration in the February 2008 sample.

Please call me if you have any questions at 419-373-3070.

Sincerely,



Walter Ariss
Environmental Specialist II
Division of Surface Water

/llr

Enclosure

pc: Dave Pitsenbarger
DSW-NWDO File