



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Northwest District Office

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

Re: Ashland County
City of Ashland WTP
NPDES permit 21W00002

March 3, 2009

Mike Hunter, Director
City of Ashland
206 Claremont Ave
Ashland, Ohio 44805 .

Dear Mr. Hunter,

On February 11, 2009, an inspection was made of the operations at the City of Ashland water treatment plant (WTP) located at 1630 Cleveland Avenue, Ashland County. The inspection was conducted as part of the renewal process for the facility's NPDES permit to allow for discharge from the lime sludge settling lagoons. Mr. Cris Harding, WTP superintendent, and yourself were present to provide a tour and answer any questions.

Mr. Harding stated that the City continues to pump from the fuel recovery well next to the chlorine tank under orders from BUSTR as part of remediation from the diesel spill a few years ago. During the inspection we also discussed the on going need to clean the solids from the lime sludge lagoons. The lagoons continue to be almost full of solids which allows very little room for settling to occur. The City has been unable to commit the necessary funds to completely clean any of the lagoons for some time now. The current lagoon cleaning budget realistically only allows for maintaining the current amount of sludge from year to year. You indicated that the city would begin pursuing cleaning of the lagoons as a capitol improvement project. Our Agency remains concerned about the lack of settling capacity in the lagoons due to the excessive sludge buildup.

A review of the discharge monitoring reports submitted to our office for August 2007 through January 2009 revealed only one violation of the limits contained in the NPDES permit. This violation was for exceeding the maximum pH at outfall 001 in October 2008.

Our office will begin drafting the renewal NPDES permit in the coming weeks. You will receive a draft copy of the permit before it is issued final. Please look this draft over and contact our office with any questions.

If you have any questions please give me a call at 419-373-3070.

Sincerely,

Walter Ariss
Environmental Specialist II
Division of Surface Water

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~~pc: NWDO/DSW file~~

Cris Harding, Ashland WTP Superintendent