



**Environmental
Protection Agency**

John R. Kasich, Governor
Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor
Scott J. Nally, Director

March 15, 2010

RE: ROCK CREEK VILLAGE WWTP
ROCK CREEK VILLAGE, ASHTABULA CO.
OHIO EPA PERMIT 3PA00029
COMPLIANCE EVALUATION INSPECTION

Honorable Beverly Martin, Mayor
Chip Laugen, Village Administrator
Village of Rock Creek
3081 West Water Street
P.O. Box 92
Rock Creek, OH 44084

Dear Mayor Martin and Mr. Laugen:

On March 10, 2011, a site inspection was conducted at the above referenced facility at 2600 Stiles Avenue, Village of Rock Creek, Ashtabula County. The inspection was conducted by John Schmidt of this office. Mark Verzella represented Ashtabula County Department of Environmental Services (ACDES) of behalf of the village, and Chip Laugen, James Hall, Kevin Justice, and Harold Justice, all from the Village of Rock Creek, were present for the inspection. The purpose of the inspection was to evaluate the facility's compliance status with respect to the terms and conditions of the facility's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The last compliance inspection was conducted on March 10, 2010.

The system consists of preliminary treatment, flow equalization, 70,000 gpd dual-unit extended aeration activated sludge treatment, final settling, surface sand filtration, chlorine disinfection, and dechlorination. Sludge handling includes an aerated sludge holding tank and a fabric "sock" bladder dewatering. Sludge is hauled off-site to a licensed solid waste landfill. The facility discharges to Rock Creek adjacent to the north side of the facility. There are no generators to provide backup power to the facility; however a portable pumps and air compressor are available on-site.

Observations

Following are observations made during the inspection.

1. The overall condition of the treatment plant during this inspection was satisfactory a significant improvement over the 2010 inspection.
2. The plant is operated by Kevin Justice and Harold Justice, with oversight provided by Mark Verzella. Mark Verzella and other staff of the Ashtabula County Department of Environmental Service (ACDES) are listed as the operator of record for this facility.
3. Ohio EPA notes that the biological treatment process tanks are located at to slightly below ground level. Care must be taken to divert surface waters away from process tanks so that tanks do not receive unnecessary rain water and snow melt, which

could adversely affect treatment processes. The swale that curves around the facility from east to south to southwest should be better defined to convey storm water run-on away from the WWTP.

4. Screenings and grit was containerized for disposal at a solid waste landfill.
5. Some grates are in deteriorated condition and should be replaced as necessary.
6. Influent and effluent samples consist of manual grab samples that are manually composited. The onsite refrigerator was noted as maintaining samples at the appropriate temperature.
7. Operator logs and operations and maintenance manuals were noted as available and properly updated.
8. The content of the aeration tank had good color and mixing. Settleability is getting better, while the nature of the septic influent requires the addition of about a pound of bacteria weekly. Sludge returns were a dark brown color, with minimal foaming. This may be due to the nature of the waste accepted at septic/near septic conditions based upon the collection system serving the facility.
9. The surface of the clarifier was clear. The effluent trough was clean and there were some small amounts of scum noted around the effluent baffle and trough. The former holes on the clarifier walls noted during the 2010 inspection were repaired, and Ohio EPA notified of these repairs on April 5, 2010. The weirs and effluent channels should be scrubbed weekly.
10. Some solids were noted in the splitter box for the fixed media units and should be cleaned.
11. The sand filters were reasonably clean and level. The effluent discharged to the sand filters during the inspection was clear and free of color and turbidity. The wastewater percolated freely through the sand indicating that the beds were not clogged. During the visit we discussed various methods of retaining the expensive sand on the filters, including various matting alternatives.
12. Some excess sand was removed and piled adjacent to the sludge storage area within the footprint of the former sludge drying beds, but that a larger pile is located outside of this area on the ground. This sand was removed from the upper areas of the sand filters. As materials have had partially treated wastewater flowing through it and can be mixed with sludge, this material should be stockpiled on paved surfaces or plastic sheeting and appropriately tarped.
13. The sand filters were noted as reasonably clean and operable, with sand added to the filters, a noted improvement over the 2010 inspection. Sludge noted along the

sides of the filters is noted as removed as indicated by Rock Creek's April 5, 2010 letter. The effluent discharged to the sand filter during the inspection was clear and free of color and turbidity. The wastewater percolated freely through the sand indicating that the beds were not clogged. It appears that additional sand is needed in the sand filters.

14. The final effluent at the disinfection tank outlet was clear. The disinfection system was not in use due to the time of year. The final discharge at the creek was not inspected due to snow cover.
15. Examination of facility logs appear to be in good order. Examination of the operations and maintenance manual for the facility found the manual in good order.
16. ACDES performs monitoring of pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen and screening for ammonia-nitrogen. The Village of Rock Creek through ACDES contracts with Microbac Laboratories of Meadville, PA remaining parameters and quality assurance samples.

NPDES Permit Compliance Review

The Village of Rock Creek operates its wastewater treatment facility under NPDES Permit No. 3PA00029*DD. A review of the electronic discharge self-monitoring reports (eDMRs) received by Ohio EPA for the period March 1, 2010 through February 1, 2011 indicates apparent noncompliance of the terms and conditions of your NPDES permit, as follows:

Limit Violations

No effluent violations are noted for the time period reviewed.

Reporting Violations

The following reporting violations were noted for the time period reviewed:

<u>Station</u>	<u>Reporting Code</u>	<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Limit Type</u>	<u>Limit</u>	<u>Reported Value</u>	<u>Violation Date</u>
001	80082	CBOD 5 day			AB	7/14/2010

A written explanation as to why this reporting code violation event occurred must be provided, along with measures to ensure that they are not repeated. If you feel some of Ohio EPA's reporting records are in error, you may wish to reenter this information through the eDMR system.

Compliance Schedule

Your permit, effective June 1, 2007, as modified on January 22, 2008 and March 9, 2009, contains the following milestones:

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Permit Effective Date	Permit Expiration Date	Schedule Due Date	Completion Date	Event Code	Schedule Type	Schedule Milestone
7/1/2007	5/31/2012	11/30/2007	04/08/2009	-----	Other	Install Pump in Flow Equalization
7/1/2007	5/31/2012	11/30/2007	04/06/2009	-----	Other	Repair sludge Drying Beds
7/1/2007	5/31/2012	11/30/2007	04/06/2009	-----	Other	Notify Ohio EPA

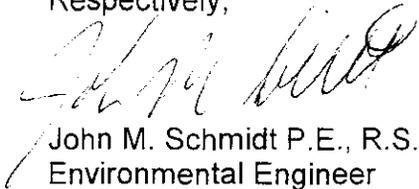
As these milestones have been completed prior to the last inspection, no additional information is needed on the compliance schedule.

Based upon the inspection findings and the overall compliance record of the facility, the Village of Rock Creek is considered to be in substantial compliance with the terms and conditions of its NPDES permit for the Rock Creek Village WWTP. The above items must be addressed.

During our visit, Mr. Verzella indicated that the issue of the septic or near septic conditions of the incoming wastewater has been an ongoing challenge for both the ACDES and your village operators. Currently, ACDES seeds the incoming wastewater to provide some biological activity. Mr. Verzella indicated that he and the village would be open to any recommendations for a low-cost workable solution to this problem. Ohio EPA DSW's Compliance Assistance Unit (CAU) may be able to assist you in this matter. Please feel free to contact Keith Kroeger at (614) 644-2001 or via email at Keith.Kroeger@epa.state.oh.us. if you would like assistance from Ohio EPA DSW CAU.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this notification, please feel free to contact me at (330) 963-1175.

Respectively,

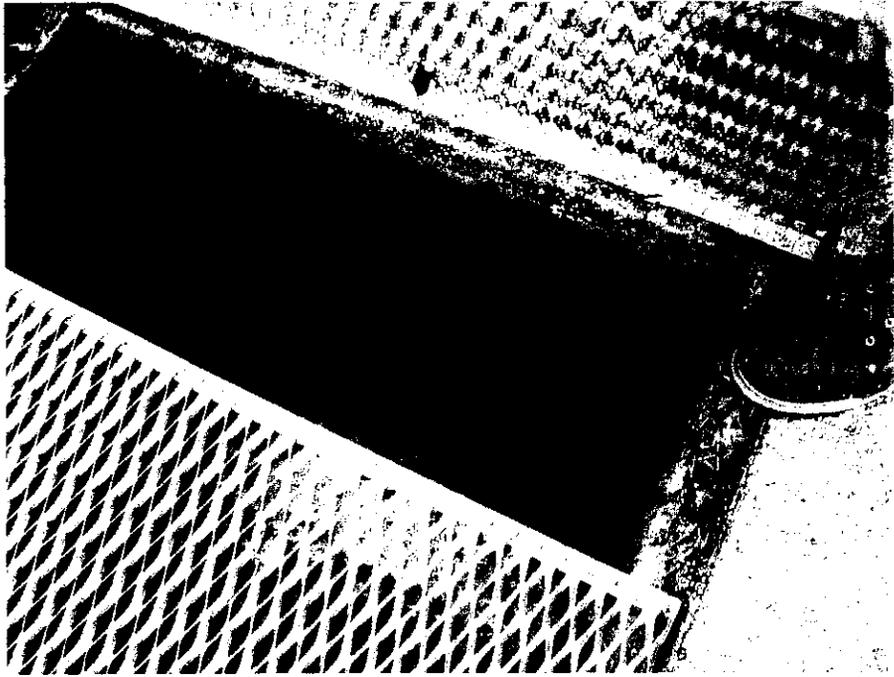


John M. Schmidt P.E., R.S.
Environmental Engineer
Division of Surface Water

JMS/mt

pc: Mark Verzella, Ashtabula County Department of Environmental Services

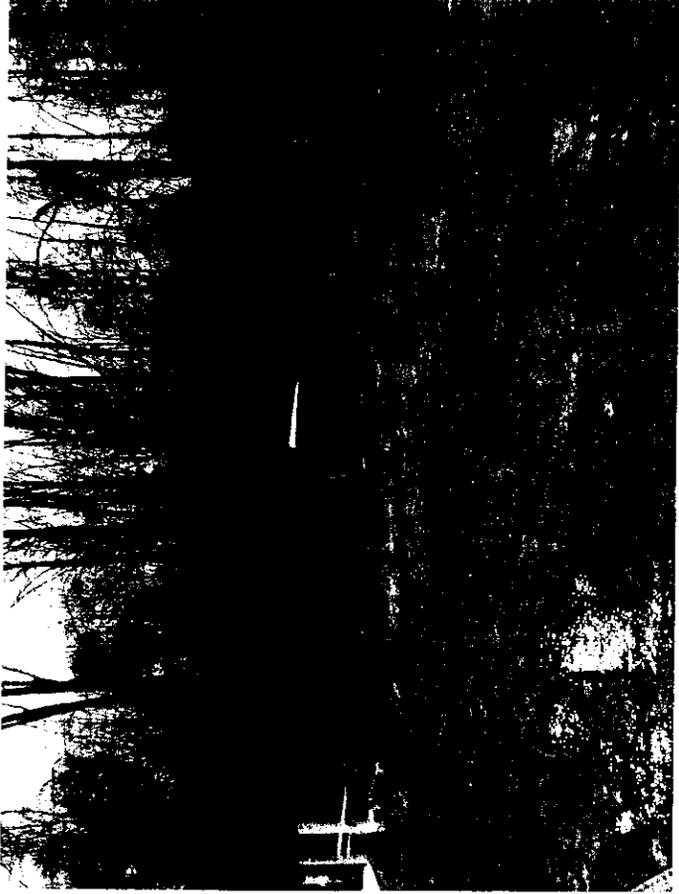
File: Municipal/Rock Creek Village WWTP (Ashtabula Co.)/PC



Splitter Box Effluent with Solids Buildup



Chlorine Contact Tank Effluent with Grass Vegetative Growth



Some Sand Storage and Ponding