



**Environmental
Protection Agency**

Rep. Strickland, Governor
Lee Fisher, Lt. Governor
Chris Karieski, Director

May 11, 2010

**RE: CITY OF STRUTHERS
WASTEWATER
2010 CEI**

Mayor and Council
City of Struthers
6 Elm Street
Struthers, OH 44471

Ladies and Gentlemen:

On April 21, 2010, this writer conducted a Compliance Evaluation Inspection (CEI) of the Struthers Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW). The intent of the inspection was to evaluate operations and maintenance at the plant. A compliance review was also conducted.

Observations:

The treatment plant was satisfactory at the time of the inspection and appeared well maintained and operated. All treatment processes were operational. The plant is routinely being upgraded and maintained which is critical for compliance with the NPDES Permit. As equipment ages, it becomes less efficient in output and costs. Upgrading equipment and providing routine maintenance reduces operating costs and improves compliance with the requirements of the NPDES Permit. Additional observations are as follows:

1. The suspended growth system had good color and floc formation. The effluent from the system was clear. The return sludge to the system had a good medium-brown color indicating a healthy community of microbes for treatment. It is recommended that a scum collection system be installed on the system to collect scum that accumulates on the settling cells. This scum collection system can reduce operation and maintenance costs of the system.
2. The effluent from the trickling filter system was satisfactory at the time of the inspection. The effluent was clear and had no odor.
3. A sample of the final mixed effluent was observed during the inspection. The effluent was clear with no apparent turbidity or color.
4. A large construction project was underway at the time of the inspection. Footers were being constructed for the gas-to-electric project that will convert methane gas from the digesters to electricity for the plant. A second project will be under way in the near future to upgrade the grit removal system. Both projects will improve efficiency of the treatment system.

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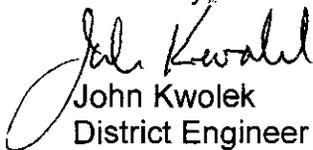
A compliance review of the treatment system was conducted as part of this inspection. The monthly reports were reviewed for the period covering April 2009 through March 2010. The analytical results submitted by the city were compared to the NPDES Permit limits. Following are violations identified during the review period.

Reporting Period	Parameter	Limit Type	Limit	Reported Value	Violation Date
April 2009	Oil and Grease, Hexane	1D Conc	10	11.5	4/15/2009
June 2009	pH, Minimum	1D Conc	6.5	6.44	6/7/2009
December 2009	Total Suspended Solids	30D Conc	30	36.8066	12/1/2009
March 2010	Total Suspended Solids	30D Conc	30	43.325	3/1/2010
March 2010	Total Suspended Solids	30D Qty	682	1135.63	3/1/2010
March 2010	Total Suspended Solids	7D Conc	45	78.6666	3/22/2010
March 2010	Total Suspended Solids	7D Qty	1022	2057.47	3/22/2010
March 2010	Dissolved Oxygen	1D Conc	5.0	4.85	3/29/2010

Explanations for the causes of the violations have been received at this office as required by the NPDES Permit.

You may contact this writer at (330) 963-1251 or at john.kwolek@epa.state.oh.us to discuss any questions you have regarding this inspection report.

Sincerely,



John Kwolek
District Engineer
Division of Surface Water

JK:cl

cc. Bob Gentile, Struthers POTW