



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Northeast District Office

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

September 10, 2008

RE: SEBRING WASTEWATER
NPDES PERMIT NO. 3PC00011
FFY 2009 CEI

Mr. Doug Burchard, Manager
Village of Sebring
135 E. Ohio Street
Sebring, OH 44672

Mr. Burchard:

On August 19, 2008, this writer conducted an unannounced inspection of the Sebring POTW. Representing the city during the inspection was Lee Hatten, Superintendent. At the time of the inspection, the treatment plant was considered satisfactory.

Observations

Following are observations made during the inspection.

➤ Treatment Plant

The plant appeared well maintained and well operated. Operations of the treatment plant were considered satisfactory at the time of the inspection. However, there are concerns regarding certain structures of the treatment plant:

1. The equalization tank has structural issues such as cracked and deflected concrete. Portions of the tank walls appear to be structurally unsound. The village has prepared a plan to replace the existing equalization tank with a new tank properly sized for current inflow and infiltration rates. The existing equalization tank should be demolished and taken off line when construction of the new tank is completed.
2. There is currently an area of flowing water and dead grass near the storage shed at the clarifiers. The village must investigate the source of the water to determine if any structural problems may exist with either the clarifiers or the oxidation tanks. A quick look at the clarifiers showed that the #1 clarifier and/or the diversion structure between the clarifiers may have shifted. The clarifier systems should be thoroughly inspected for any damage that may cause wastewater to leak from the system.
3. The clarifiers need to be taken out of service and the mechanicals properly inspected. The sweeps need to be inspected for any structural defects that could cause failure. Metal parts need to be coated with a corrosion preventative to extend their life. Concrete needs to be inspected for structural integrity and repairs need to be provided where necessary.

➤ Open Burning Area

In addition to inspecting the wastewater treatment plant, this writer walked to an area north of the treatment plant. It was observed that the village is burning material that included tree branches,

paint cans and possibly demolished houses and other material too numerous to list. Be advised that the material observed on the day of the inspection appeared to be regulated solid waste. Such material may not be disposed by open burning per Ohio Revised Code (R.C.) 3734.03. The village must immediately cease burning materials and contact the Mahoning County Health Department to discuss proper disposal procedures.

➤ Flood Control Area

Also discussed with Mr. Hatten, was what appeared to be a flood control system which included an excavated pond and a channel dug through the stream bank. It appears that the pond is used to store water during periods of flooding and release water when the stream flow recedes. This is an appropriate way to control flooding by constructing flood plane area previously destroyed by development. However, the system must be properly designed to be effective. The system observed during the inspection appeared to be randomly constructed and not as effective as it could be if it was properly designed. It is recommended that the village continue this method of flood control. However, it is recommended that the village contact a consulting firm experienced with flood control structures to provide a design that will maximize the effectiveness of the system.

Sewer System Overflows

The NPDES Permit has a reporting station identified as the 300 station. This reporting station is applicable to any sanitary sewer overflow in the collection system, including basement flooding. Based on discussions with Mr. Hatten, it is understood that citizen calls to report sanitary sewer overflows and basement flooding are directed to the Service Department.

Be advised that the village must properly record and report such events in accordance with the requirements of the NPDES Permit. Overflow and basement flooding events must be recorded by the Service Department and provided to the wastewater treatment plant for proper reporting. Part II, Item P of the NPDES Permit should be reviewed for reporting requirements. Procedures must be established by the village for immediate reporting of overflow events as required in Part II, Item P.1.a.

Compliance Review

The Monthly Operating Reports (MORs) were reviewed to determine compliance with the NPDES Permit. The period of review was May 2007 through July 2008 2007. Following are violations of the NPDES Permit noted during the review period.

Reporting Period	Parameter	Limit Type	Limit	Reported Value	Violation Date
March 2008	Total Suspended Solids	30D Qty	68.1	84.8226	3/1/2008
March 2008	Total Suspended Solids	7D Qty	102.2	122.531	3/1/2008
March 2008	Total Suspended Solids	7D Qty	102.2	103.794	3/8/2008
March 2008	Total Suspended Solids	7D Qty	102.2	109.626	3/15/2008
February 2008	Total Suspended Solids	30D Conc.	12	12.6666	2/1/2008
February 2008	Total Suspended Solids	7D Conc.	18	19.	2/1/2008

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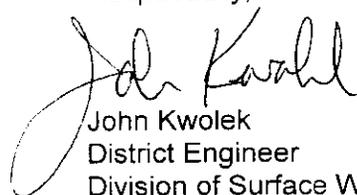
Reporting Period	Parameter	Limit Type	Limit	Reported Value	Violation Date
February 2008	Total Suspended Solids	30D Qty	68.1	85.6416	2/1/2008
February 2008	Total Suspended Solids	7D Qty	102.2	225.419	2/1/2008
February 2008	CBOD 5 day	7D Qty	85.1	85.9041	2/1/2008
December 2007	Total Suspended Solids	30D Conc.	12	13.5	12/1/2007

The violations noted above appear to be mostly related to high flows through the treatment plant that exceed the design. This is apparent from the occurrence of quantity violations on days when the pollutant concentrations are in compliance with the permit. The new equalization tank to be constructed by the village will enable better control of wastewater through the treatment system by providing adequate storage facilities for high flow events. The ability to control the flow of wastewater through the treatment system with the new equalization tank should eliminate violations like those identified above.

The village is currently under a compliance schedule to address inflow and infiltration to the wastewater treatment system. A review of the schedule milestones showed that the village has been in compliance with the schedule. The village has fallen slightly behind schedule with the bidding process. The village should work to get back to the timelines established in the permit. The next milestone date of the schedule is October 1, 2008 when the village is required to award the contract for the project. Following the awarding of the contract, the village is to initiate construction by January 1, 2009.

You may contact this office at (330) 963-1251 to discuss any questions you may have regarding this inspection report.

Respectfully,



John Kwolek
District Engineer
Division of Surface Water

JW/mh

cc: Lee Hatten, Sebring POTW

File: Municipal/Sebring WWTP/Permit and Compliance