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State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

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July 9, 2007

Auglaize County
2PD00019*KD

Mayor & Council
City of Wapakoneta
P.O. Box 269
Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Re: Notice of Violation – Nine Minimum Control Implementation/ Collection System Inspection

Dear Mayor & Council:

On June 7, 2007, Ohio EPA staff members Justin Williams and I met with Robert Burns, WWTP Superintendent, to conduct an inspection of the City of Wapakoneta's wastewater collection system and the degree of implementation of the Nine Minimum Controls (NMC) for reducing combined sewer overflow (CSO) impacts. The Nine Minimum Controls are included in Part II, Item F of your current National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit (Ohio EPA No. 2PD00019*KD).

Discussion during the inspection, review of records, and review of information submitted to this office indicates that the City is in violation of permit requirements calling for implementation of the Nine Minimum Controls. Specifically, the City is not sufficiently implementing the following minimum controls: Review and modification of pretreatment requirements to assure CSO impacts are minimized (NMC 3) and Prohibition of dry weather overflows (NMC 5). During the inspection, City staff indicated that they were unable to determine whether dry weather overflows have occurred as the CSOs are only inspected during rain events. The occurrence of dry weather overflows (or lack thereof) can only be determined by periodically inspecting outfalls during dry weather (Ohio EPA recommends a minimum of weekly inspections - regardless of the occurrence of precipitation). As a result, the City is in violation of this minimum control. Discussion regarding the City's efforts for each of these controls and additional efforts that should be taken is located below in Attachment A. Please note that proper implementation of the Nine Minimum Controls is critical to your achieving compliance with your NPDES permit. Failure to comply with the Nine Minimum Control implementation requirements in your NPDES permit may result in enforcement actions from Ohio EPA.

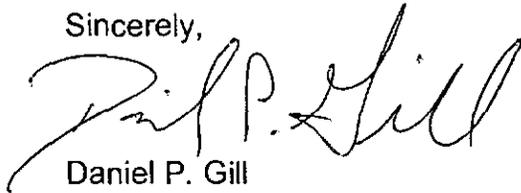
The current status of the City's Long-Term Control Plan (LTCP) was also discussed during the inspection. The City is currently developing their LTCP, which is scheduled to be submitted to Ohio EPA by April 1, 2008.

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

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A response to this letter detailing efforts the City will undertake to fully implement the Nine Minimum Controls should be sent to this office within 30 days of the date on this letter. If you have questions/concerns regarding this report, I can be reached by telephone at (614) 644-2118 or email at dan.gill@epa.state.oh.us.

Sincerely,



Daniel P. Gill
Environmental Specialist
Division of Surface Water, Ohio EPA, Central Office

Attachments

c: Justin Williams, DSW, NWDO
DSW-CO File

Attachment A
City of Wapakoneta Combined Sewer Overflow Reconnaissance Inspection

Part II, Other Requirements, Item F., in the permittee's NPDES permit (Ohio EPA No. 2PD00019), indicates that the entire wastewater treatment system shall be operated and maintained so that the total loading of pollutants discharged during wet weather is minimized. This is to be accomplished through use of what is known as the Nine Minimum Controls. Part II.B. of the National CSO Control Policy discusses implementation requirements for these control measures, which are listed and discussed below.

1. Proper operation and regular maintenance programs for the sewer system and CSOs.

City of Wapakoneta staff operates and maintains the WWTP and collection system. The permittee inspects the three CSO outfalls after precipitation events taking place during hours of operation.

Records of the inspections and monitoring data, as well as maintenance and repairs on the sewer system and CSO structures, should be maintained by City staff in a centralized log book keeping note of date, time, items requiring attention, and corrective measures taken.

The permittee maintains a detailed and up-to-date sewer collection system map for use in planning and inspections. It was stated during the inspection that the collection system experiences minimal issues associated with fats, oil and grease (FOG) and inflow & infiltration (I/I). **Grease interceptors should be inspected on a routine basis to ensure their proper function.**

2. Maximum use of the collection system for storage.

The permittee indicated that all CSOs are equipped with backflow prevention duckbill valves. At the same time, it was stated that it is unknown whether the fixed-weir regulators associated with each of the CSOs are set at the highest level practical without causing basement backups or excessive street flooding. **An assessment of this should be conducted as part of the system characterization portion of the Long-Term Control Plan.**

3. Review and modification of pretreatment requirements to assure CSO impacts are minimized.

The City of Wapakoneta operates a pretreatment program responsible for regulating industrial users. The permittee stated that they were unsure as to the potential ability of these industrial users to hold back wastewater flows during wet weather events. **The permittee should meet with their industrial users and discuss their ability to hold**

back flows during wet weather. Measures should be incorporated into the pretreatment program to ensure implementation of this control strategy.

4. Maximize flow at the WWTP for treatment.

The WWTP is currently designed to handle average daily flows of 4.0 million gallons per day (MGD). The facility is able to treat peak flows of 8.0 MGD through full secondary treatment for 14 hours without negatively impacting operation of the WWTP, at which time 6 MGD can continue to receive full secondary treatment, and the remaining 2 MGD receives primary treatment and disinfection prior to blending with the WWTP effluent. The capacity of the WWTP is fully utilized to maximize the amount of wastewater that receives treatment.

5. Prohibition of CSOs during dry weather.

City staff indicated that they were unable to determine whether dry weather overflows have occurred as the CSOs are only inspected during rain events. **The permittee should inspect all CSOs on a weekly basis, regardless of the occurrence of precipitation, to ensure that dry weather overflows are not taking place.**

6. Control of Solid and Floatable Materials in CSOs.

Regular inspections conducted by the permittee have established that minimal trash is found at the combined sewer outfalls. Catch basins throughout the City are cleaned in response to complaints.

7. Pollution prevention.

A street sweeper is operated throughout the City on a weekly basis. A leaf and brush pick-up program is also implemented.

8. Public Notification to ensure that the public receives adequate notification of CSO occurrences and CSO impacts.

Signs are posted at CSO locations to inform the public that contact with discharge from these structures should be avoided. In addition, an article regarding the City's CSOs was recently included in the local newsletter.

It is recommended that the permittee periodically distribute (during recreational season) informational brochures detailing CSO information (such as location, health concerns, and contact information to receive further details).

9. Monitoring to effectively characterize CSO impacts and the efficacy of CSO controls.

The permittee is continuing to monitor its system in accordance with its NPDES permit. This information should be used to evaluate effectiveness of sewerage system improvements.