



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Northeast District Office

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Twinsburg, Ohio 44087

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

March 24, 2008

RE: ALCO MANUFACTURING CORP.
LORAIN COUNTY
PERMIT NO. 3IS00123

Mr. Matthew J. Basinski
Alco Manufacturing Corp.
10584 Middle Avenue
Elyria, Ohio 44035

Dear Mr. Basinski:

On February 21, 2008, an inspection of the above referenced facility was conducted to obtain and review information for drafting a renewal of the facility's NPDES wastewater permit. The facility was represented by you. The purpose of the inspection was to: (1) evaluate the facility's compliance status with respect to the terms and conditions of the above-referenced National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and (2) determine required additional actions to be undertaken as part of the permit renewal process.

During the inspection, the following items were noted/discussed:

1. The design flow of the extended aeration wastewater treatment plant is 7,000 gallons per day.
2. The facility is currently approaching 200 employees due to a manufacturing expansion.
3. Ms. Christina Douglas from Uni-tech Environmental Services, Inc. is the current operator of the treatment system. Uni-tech subcontracts J&L Septic Service for sludge hauling.
4. Ms. Douglas is responsible for collecting the samples and reporting the results to Ohio EPA.
5. The blowers were running and the plant was receiving good aeration.
6. The contents of the aeration tank were light brown. A medium brown color is more typical of a properly operating plant. No foam was present in the tank.
7. Both the sludge return line and skimmer return line were functioning properly.
8. The weirs and the sidewalls in the settling tank were also free of scum build-up.
9. **Both surface sand filter beds were loaded with solids deposit and one bed was draining slowly. Each bed should be independently taken off line and permitted to dry. The sludge layer should then be raked off and properly disposed. Past inspections have also documented that more than expected amounts of solids continue to reach and plug the surface sand filter bed media causing the beds to not drain properly. The effluent should drain almost immediately.**
10. You indicated that new surface sand filter media is going to be installed this spring. Enclosed is a partial list of companies who have submitted approved samples of sand. In general, 18-inches of approved filter sand is necessary. Any filter sand that is used must meet the requirements of Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 3745-42-09. More specifically, for conventional surface sand filters, filter sand shall be washed and free of silt; have an effective size of 0.4 mm to 1.0 mm; and have a uniformity coefficient less than 3.0.
11. You also indicated that Mack Industries replaced one of two pumps in December 2007.
12. The final effluent being discharged was clear and appeared to be of satisfactory visual quality.
13. **To date, this office does not have record of receiving the facility's NPDES permit renewal application. The facility's NPDES permit expired on February 29, 2008. Ohio EPA forms 1, 2E, and the Antidegradation Addendum should be submitted immediately.**



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14. You were informed that a web based application for submitting the monthly operating report is currently available. Web addresses are available below which provide information on this topic along with training dates.

This office has recently reviewed your self-monitoring reports covering the period September 1, 2007 thru January 31, 2008, for the referenced facility. Our review indicates violations of the terms and conditions of your NPDES permit. The specific instances of noncompliance are as follows:

Limit Violations

Station	Reporting Code	Parameter	Limit Type	Limit	Reported Value	Violation Date
001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3	30D Conc	3.0	26.25	12/1/2007
001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3	30D Qty	0.08	.41432	12/1/2007
001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3	7D Conc	4.5	26.25	12/22/2007
001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3	7D Qty	0.12	.41432	12/22/2007

No Frequency violations were noted.

Please note that Ohio EPA has converted from the existing **SWIMware** software to a Web based reporting system, **e-DMR**. The new reporting system is entirely Web based and accessible via any Internet connection. Ohio EPA Form 4500, commonly known as MORs, will now be called Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs or e-DMRs). User training is going to be available in May and October of this year. Please consult the following web site for updates regarding the specific date:

<http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/swims/eDMR/eDMRtraining.html>

If you need additional information pertaining to the SWIMware replacement e-DMR, consult the following web site:

<http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/swims/eDMR/eDMR.html>

Please be advised that such instances of noncompliance may be cause for enforcement actions pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code, Chapter 6111.

Should you have any comments or questions concerning this letter, please feel free to call me at 330-963-1143.

Respectfully,



Michael W. Stevens
Environmental Engineer
Division of Surface Water

MWS:bo

enclosure: Partial list of companies who have submitted approved samples of sand