



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Northeast District Office

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

March 11, 2010

RE: GEAUGA COUNTY
FAIRMOUNT MINERALS/BEST SAND
PRE PERMIT INSPECTION
NPDES #3IJ00064*AD

Mr. Dan Gelet
Fairmount Minerals, Ltd
P.O. Box 87
Chardon, OH 44024

Dear Mr. Gelet:

On March 3, 2010, this writer conducted an inspection of the facility located at 11830 Ravenna Road, Chardon. The intent of the inspection was to gather information for the renewal of your NPDES permit. Below are the findings and recommendations from the inspection:

Fairmount Minerals is a sand mining operation which includes quarry mining and blasting activities, crushing, washing, screening, drying and stockpiling of mined materials. The facility's active mining season begins by April of each year and typically lasts until it is seasonally not viable. The facility mines and blasts approximately 5 acre/year of land. The winter operations at the facility typically include washing, screening, drying, sorting and stockpiling materials. Potable water is used at the facility and is discharged to the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) located onsite.

The facility utilizes a series of ponds and channels to route process wash water, storm water and sanitary sewer effluent. The complicated flow schematic settles solids, supplies water for wet mining operations and has been utilized to preserve water on the site. The ponds, channels and ditches are routed through the site with the final discharge from the site to the Duck Pond which discharges to Best Lake in the Best Nature Preserve.

INSPECTION SUMMARY

Groundwater and runoff is pumped, as needed, from the sandstone mining area to the Big Lake which discharges to the Quarry Pond. Pumps located in the Quarry Pond pump the effluent to a ditch which discharges to either the Mill Pond or the Sedimentation Pond via a weir box located at Mill Pond. The Mill Pond is used as intake water for the Dry Processing and Wet Processing. The Mill pond discharges to either the Sedimentation Pond, Duck Pond or to a channel which discharges to Duck Pond. The Wet Processing area discharge is fed with a polymer to assist in flocculation. The discharge from the Wet Processing area is diverted to the Sedimentation Pond. Polymer addition is also added at the Dry Processing area

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discharge. The Dry Processing area discharges to a channel which discharges to Duck Pond. It is understood the polymer additive is only added during processing operations. During the inspection, the channel which discharges to the Duck Pond contained an oil boom to contain any residual oil and grease. It is understood the channel is dredged about two times a year to remove any muck buildup. The final pond where all discharges are routed is the Duck Pond. The Duck Pond discharges to Best Lake through outfall 001. A pump located in Duck Pond is used to pump water to the Sedimentation Pond.

It is understood the WWTP serves the maintenance shop, the bag plant, the conference room and the scale house. The main office building located onsite discharges to an onsite septic system.

The WWTP is designed to treat 1500 gallons per day. The WWTP was in operation at the time of the inspection. The aeration tank was provided with adequate air and the settling tank appeared to be operating satisfactorily with the skimmer visible. One sand filter was in use and appeared to be operating normally. The effluent is chlorinated but not provided with dechlorination. The sanitary sewer effluent discharges to the Mill Pond (near the dust collector area of the pond). The samples for the wastewater treatment plant effluent, outfall 601, are collected at the chlorination tank effluent. Tom Frank conducts maintenance and sampling of the WWTP.

The final outfall to Best Lake was in satisfactory condition. It is understood the Duck Pond is currently discharging continuously to Best Lake. As such, ensure accurate flow measurement is conducted on the final effluent (001).

VIOLATION SUMMARY

A summary of NPDES permit discharge and frequency violations for the period of January 1, 2008 through March 1, 2010 has been attached to this letter. Any reporting errors or eDMR errors must be reported to the Ohio EPA so the error can be resolved. You may contact Mr. James Roberts of this Agency's Central Office at (614) 644-2054 to discuss this issue directly.

NPDES SUMMARY

The Water Quality Standards (WQS) have been revised to reference e-coli bacteria versus fecal coliform. As such, all NPDES permits which currently reference fecal coliform monitoring must be revised upon permit renewal. Your facility will be given a compliance schedule to come into compliance with the WQS for e-coli. The renewal permit will reference fecal coliform limits with e-coli monitoring for the first disinfection season (2010). The final table will include e-coli limits of 362 monthly and 161 weekly.

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As discussed during the inspection, the renewal NPDES permit for your facility will contain monitoring for Oil and Grease. Your NPDES renewal permit will be drafted in the near future and public noticed. Once the permit is public noticed, you will have 30 days to make any comments. Please be aware, the renewal permit will contain a compliance schedule recommending the following:

- 1) Begin monitoring for e-coli in the interim final effluent table. The final effluent table will include e-coli limits of 362 monthly and 161 weekly.
- 2) Obtain compliance with the final effluent table for outfall 601.

It is understood the certified operator for the sanitary WWTP is Tom Frank. Please note, in accordance with Ohio Administrative Code 3745-7-02 (A) (2), the facility must designate one or more operator of record to oversee the technical operation of the treatment works. A copy of the ORC form is included with this letter. The ORC form must be completed and submitted to the Ohio EPA.

The eDMR PIN for this facility must be assigned to an individual who has working knowledge of the facility and wastewater treatment plant. According to eDMR records, it appears the PIN and submitter of eDMR for Best Sand/Fairmount Minerals is Bill Nevison. If this is incorrect or needs to be updated, please contact this office. The following link, <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/edmr/eDMR.aspx>, provides detailed information regarding PIN assignment and submittal authority.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this letter, please contact this office at (330) 963-1299.

Respectfully,



Laura A. Weber, P.E.
Environmental Engineer
Division of Surface Water

LAW/mt

ec: mark.schiefelbein@fmsand.com

File: Industrial/Fairmount Minerals -Best Sand

Violation Summary:

Discharge Monitoring Violations

| Permit No | Reporting Period | Station | Parameter | Limit Type | Limit | Reported Value | Violation Date |
|-------------|------------------|---------|------------------------|------------|-------|----------------|----------------|
| 3IJ00064*AD | June 2008 | 601 | Total Suspended Solids | 30D Conc | 12 | 21. | 6/1/2008 |
| 3IJ00064*AD | June 2008 | 601 | Total Suspended Solids | 7D Conc | 18 | 21. | 6/15/2008 |

Frequency Violations

| Permit No | Reporting Period | Station | Parameter | Sample Frequency | Expected | Reported | Violation Date |
|-------------|------------------|---------|------------------------|------------------|----------|----------|----------------|
| 3IJ00064*AD | June 2008 | 001 | Total Suspended Solids | 1/2Weeks | 1 | 0 | 06/15/2008 |
| 3IJ00064*AD | July 2008 | 001 | Total Suspended Solids | 1/2Weeks | 1 | 0 | 07/01/2008 |
| 3IJ00064*AD | March 2009 | 001 | Total Suspended Solids | 1/2Weeks | 1 | 0 | 03/15/2009 |