



**Environmental  
Protection Agency**

Ted Strickland, Governor  
Lee Fisher, Lt. Governor  
Chris Konecki, Director

September 20, 2010

**RE: GREEN CIRCLE GROWERS, INC.  
PERMIT NO: 3IN00344  
LORAIN COUNTY**

Mr. John Van Wingerden  
Green Circle Growers, Inc.  
15650 St. Rt. 511  
Oberlin, Ohio 44074

Dear Mr. Van Wingerden:

On September 16, 2010, an inspection of the above referenced facility's wastewater treatment system was conducted. The facility was represented by Mr. Mark Sheldon. The purpose of the inspection was to evaluate the operation and maintenance of the treatment systems along with the facility's compliance status with respect to the terms and conditions of the above referenced National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

During the inspection the following items were noted/discussed:

1. The plant design of the wastewater treatment system is 8,000 gpd.
2. Ms. Carrie Anne M. Rosemark-Langdon, a Class III Wastewater Operator continues as the contracted operator to oversee the overall performance of the wastewater treatment plant.
3. Currently the package plant has been averaging 1,760 gpd since November 1, 2007.
4. A temporary flow meter was installed approximately 10 weeks ago to obtain a more accurate reading of the flow into the treatment system. The existing system is being evaluated to determine if additional sanitary flow from across the street can be discharged into the treatment system or if an additional treatment system is required to be constructed.
5. The blowers were running and the plant was receiving good aeration.
6. The flow equalization tank was also being aerated.
7. The contents of the aeration tank were light to medium brown in color and minimal foam was present.
8. The treatment system appeared to be underloaded
9. The sludge return line was functioning properly and returning light to medium brown water.
10. The skimmer return line was functioning properly and returning clear water. The skimmer level appeared to be set at the proper level.
11. The surface of the settling tank was free of floating solids.
12. The weir in the settling tank was free from scum and solids deposition
13. No scum was present behind the baffle in the settling tank.
14. Both fixed media clarifiers were in operation.
15. The surface sand filter beds were free of vegetation and sludge.
16. The discharge into the surface sand filter beds was clear. The final discharge point was not observed.
17. Two lift stations discharge into the wastewater treatment system. Mr. Sheldon indicated that these lift stations are pumped out approximately three times per year.

Mr. John Van Wingerden  
 Green Circle Growers, Inc.  
 September 20, 2010  
 Page 2

18. Both pumps in the lift station at the plant #1 production area were replaced in early spring of 2010.
19. Fred Louis Septic Cleaning removed a total of 3,000 gallons of sludge from the sludge holding tank and fixed media clarifier on April 23, 2010. The sludge was hauled to French Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant in North Ridgeville.

This office has recently reviewed your self-monitoring reports covering the period from November 1, 2007, through July 31, 2010, 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
601	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3)	30D Conc	3.0	10.3	12/1/2007
601	31616	Fecal Coliform	30D Conc	1000	4300.	12/1/2007
601	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3)	7D Conc	4.5	10.3	12/22/2007
601	31616	Fecal Coliform	7D Conc	2000	4300.	12/22/2007
601	00530	Total Suspended Solids	30D Conc	12	20.	3/1/2008
601	00530	Total Suspended Solids	7D Conc	18	20.	3/22/2008
601	50060	Chlorine, Total Residue	1D Conc	0.038	.	3/26/2008
601	00530	Total Suspended Solids	30D Conc	12	14.	6/1/2008
601	80082	CBOD 5 day	30D Conc	10	15.	8/1/2008
601	31616	Fecal Coliform	30D Conc	1000	11500.	12/1/2008
601	80082	CBOD 5 day	30D Conc	10	16.	6/1/2009
601	80082	CBOD 5 day	7D Conc	15	16.	6/22/2009
601	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3)	30D Conc	3.0	5.2	12/1/2009
601	80082	CBOD 5 day	30D Conc	10	20.	12/1/2009
601	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3)	7D Conc	4.5	10.15	12/15/2009
601	80082	CBOD 5 day	7D Conc	15	20.	12/15/2009
601	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3)	30D Conc	3.0	17.5	3/1/2010
601	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3)	30D Qty	0.09	.14466	3/1/2010
601	00400	pH	1D Conc	6.5	6.4	3/25/2010

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*

Michael W. Stevens  
 Environmental Engineer  
 Division of Surface Water

MWS: cl