



**Environmental  
Protection Agency**

Commissioner, Governor  
Assistant, Lt. Governor  
Cassidy, Director

October 27, 2010

RE: GUGGISBERG CHEESE  
SUGAR CREEK FACILITY  
NPDES PERMIT NO 3IH00065

Mr. Richard Guggisberg, Owner  
Guggisberg Cheese Inc.  
5060 State Route 557  
Millersburg, OH 44654

Mr. Guggisberg:

On October 19, 2010, this writer, along with John Schmidt of this office, conducted an inspection of the wastewater treatment plant of the Guggisberg Cheese Sugar Creek facility. The intent of the inspection was to monitor operation and maintenance of the facility. The intent was also to meet with you and Eric Phillips to discuss the NPDES Permit schedule of compliance.

Observations

Following are observations at the treatment plant at the time of the inspection.

1. The treatment plant was satisfactory at the time of the inspection. The plant appeared well maintained and operated.
2. It was understood that the treatment plant had previous violations for suspended solids. These violations were caused by problems with several of the membrane filters that had been pulled and isolated at the time of the inspection. It was understood that the filters pulled from the system will be replaced.
3. The effluent was clear at the point of discharge to Troyer Valley Creek.

Compliance Review

The monthly compliance reports were reviewed for compliance with the NPDES Permit. The period of review was October 2009 through September 2010. Following are violations identified for the review period.

Reporting Period	Parameter	Limit Type	Limit	Reported Value	Violation Date
June 2010	Total Suspended Solids	1D Conc	12.6	22.	6/22/2010
June 2010	Total Suspended Solids	1D Qty	2.38	2.47229	6/22/2010
July 2010	Total Suspended Solids	30D Conc	8.4	13.75	7/1/2010
July 2010	Total Suspended Solids	30D Qty	1.59	1.76182	7/1/2010
July 2010	Total Suspended Solids	1D Conc	12.6	18.	7/6/2010
July 2010	Total Suspended Solids	1D Conc	12.6	16.	7/20/2010
July 2010	Total Suspended Solids	1D Conc	12.6	16.	7/27/2010

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Reporting Period	Parameter	Limit Type	Limit	Reported Value	Violation Date
September 2010	Total Suspended Solids	1D Conc	12.6	17.	9/14/2010

As discussed earlier, it was explained that the solids violations were the result of problems with the membrane filters. It was believed that the problems were corrected at the time of the inspection.

#### Schedule of Compliance

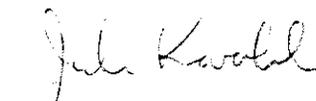
As we discussed, the Permit-to-Install application was to be submitted to this office no later than July 1, 2010. However, it was explained that Guggisberg Cheese has completed its evaluation of different treatment technologies and has selected a method of treatment. As agreed, the Permit-to-Install application will be submitted to this office by November 19, 2010. It was also agreed that construction on the treatment system is planned to begin no later than January 1, 2011 and be completed no later than September 1, 2011 in accordance with the schedule of compliance.

The schedule also included provisions for outfall 002. According to monthly sample results, ammonia levels at outfall 002 routinely exceed 3.0 mg/l and at times exceed 4.0 mg/l. The source of ammonia and any other contaminants being discharged through outfall 002 must be identified and eliminated. Outfall 002 is established only for uncontaminated noncontact cooling water.

According to item 2b of the compliance schedule, Guggisberg Cheese is to submit to this office by November 1, 2010, a report that summarizes activities by the company to identify the sources of contamination being discharged through outfall 002. The requirement also necessitates Guggisberg Cheese include in the report, actions that will be taken to eliminate the discharge of contaminated water through outfall 002. It was agreed during the meeting that the report identified in Item 2b of the compliance schedule will be submitted no later than November 1, 2010.

You may contact this writer at (330) 963-1251 or at [john.kwolek@epa.state.oh.us](mailto:john.kwolek@epa.state.oh.us) to discuss any questions you may have regarding this inspection report. I look forward to receiving the Permit-to-Install for outfall 001 and the report for outfall 002 in the next few weeks.

Respectfully,

  
John Kwolek  
District Engineer

JK/mt

cc: Eric Phillips, Envirotech Environmental Engineering