



**Environmental  
Protection Agency**

John R. Kasich, Governor  
Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor  
Scott J. Nally, Director

January 25, 2011

RE: INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER  
HOLMES CHEESE COMPANY  
9444 STATE ROUTE 39  
NPDES PERMIT NO. 3IH00102

Mr. Brian Ramseyer  
Holmes Cheese Company  
9444 State Route 39  
Millersburg, OH 44654

Mr. Ramseyer:

On January 4, 2011, this writer along with Dean Stoll of this office conducted an inspection of the wastewater treatment plant at the Holmes Cheese facility. The intent of the inspection was to discuss the status of the new wastewater treatment plant under construction.

At the time of the inspection, you had indicated that treatment plant construction was approximately 50% completed. The anaerobic system was operating and generating gas that was being flared off. The aerobic system (the MBBR) was activated and was beginning to generate the microbes necessary for treatment. The effluent from the MBBR was discharging to the clarifier. The wastewater from the clarifier was being returned to the treatment lagoon. The phosphorus removal system and the tertiary filter system were not operational at the time of the inspection. Workers were on site to bring those systems on-line.

Be advised that the compliance schedule of the NPDES Permit required the treatment system to be fully operational and in compliance no later than January 1, 2011. Failure to meet that deadline places Holmes Cheese in noncompliance with the NPDES Permit and Ohio Revised Code 6111.07.

During the inspection, you indicated that polymer was not being added to the treated wastewater from the MBBR. As discussed, you had recognized that the effluent quality from the clarifier was less than adequate for discharge to Corns Run. In response, Holmes Cheese was returning the wastewater to the treatment lagoon where it was being hauled off-site to several locations, including land application to fields approved for sludge application.

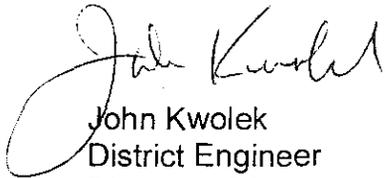
Several problems associated with freezing lines were encountered during the cold weather start-up of the plant. Two areas where this occurred were covered with tarps to prevent further line freezing. You had indicated that start-up and debugging of the new system was delayed because of the holiday season when contractors were, at times, not available.

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At the time of the inspection, the only wastewater being discharged to Corns Run was COW water. Corns Run was flowing clear during the inspection. No sludge was observed in the stream downstream of the plant. It is anticipated that Corns Run will recover from previous impacts when the new treatment system is fully operational and in compliance with the NPDES Permit.

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.

Respectfully,



John Kwolek  
District Engineer  
Division of Surface Water

JK/mt

cc: Larry Reeder, Ohio EPA, Enforcement, DSW, CO