



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Northeast District Office

2110 East Aurora Rd.
Twinsburg, Ohio 44087

TELE: (330) 963-1200 FAX: (330) 487-0769
www.epa.state.oh.us

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

*File
In
Middlefield
Original Cheese
Co-Op*

June 13, 2008

RE: GEAUGA COUNTY
MIDDLEFIELD ORIGINAL CHEESE CO-OP
NOTICE OF VIOLATION NPDES PERMIT
PERMIT #3IH00076*AD

CERTIFIED MAIL

Mr. Nevin Byler, Manager
Middlefield Original Cheese Co-Op
16942 Kinsman Road
P.O. Box 237
Middlefield, OH 44062

Dear Mr. Byler:

This letter is to notify you and Middlefield Original Cheese Co-Op that you have violated the Federal Clean Water Act and Ohio Revised Code 6111. Each violation is subject to enforcement action by the Director of Ohio EPA.

A review of plant performance reports since January 2007 shows that the discharge from the Middlefield Original Cheese Co-Op wastewater treatment plant has been in violation of permitted pollutant limits for seven of the last eighteen months. As shown on the enclosed table of violations, total suspended solids concentrations in plant discharges are beyond permitted levels on many occasions. You failed to report required parameters 82 times during those eighteen months, particularly in the recent month of May. Most of the May violations involve not reporting color, odor, and turbidity which are easily observed on a daily basis.

This office is prepared to refer each of these violations to our legal department for enforcement action. Each of these violations of Ohio Revised Code 6111 can result in fines of up to \$10,000 per day of occurrence.

Please provide a response to this letter by June 26, 2008, identifying causes for these violations and proposing corrective actions to bring your wastewater treatment plant into full compliance with your current NPDES discharge permit.

Please contact me directly at (330) 963-1260 to discuss any comments or questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Douglas Hiestand
Environmental Engineer
Division of Surface Water

cc: Michael A. Shapiro, Staff Attorney, Ohio EPA, CO
Rachel DeMuth, Ohio EPA, DSW, CO

File: Semi/Geauga/Middlefield/ Middlefield Original Cheese Co-Op