



Environmental
Protection Agency

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

June 2, 2011

RE: OBERLIN WTP
PERMIT NO. 3IW00061
LORAIN COUNTY
OBERLIN

Mayor and Council
City of Oberlin
85 South Main Street
Oberlin Ohio 44074

Dear Mayor and Council:

On May 4, 2011, an inspection of the above referenced facility's lime sludge lagoon was conducted. The facility was represented by Mr. Jon Love, Lab Technician and Mr. Jerry Hade, Superintendent. The purpose of the inspection was to: 1) evaluate the lime sludge lagoon discharge 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 water treatment plant's source of water is from the West Branch of the Black River.
2. The West Branch of the Black River is tested for Turbidity, E. Coli, and UV254. If the appropriate criteria are met, the water is pumped into the City of Oberlin's Water Treatment Plant reservoir.
3. The water treatment plant process consists of the following:
 - a. Addition of sodium permanganate;
 - b. Rapid mix;
 - c. Addition of alum, lime, polymer, sodium hexa-meta-phosphate;
 - d. Floc chamber;
 - e. Sedimentation basin/sludge blow down;
 - f. Re-carbonation basin where chlorine is added;
 - g. Sand filters;
 - h. Clear well;
 - i. Chlorination;
 - j. Drinking water sent to distribution system;
 - k. Sludge blow down from the sedimentation basin is routed to a pit in which rainfall from the roof is mixed with the sludge blow down and then routed to the lime sludge lagoon;
 - l. Mr. Love indicated that the pH of the sludge being routed to the lagoon has a pH of 9.5 S.U. to 11.0 S. U.;
 - m. Lime sludge settles out in the lagoon; and
 - n. The supernatant from the lagoon discharges to the West Branch of the Black River.

Mayor and Council
City of Oberlin WTP
June 2, 2011
Page 2

4. Mr. Hade indicated that approximately 400-500 dry tons of lime sludge was dredged from the lime sludge lagoon in 2009.
5. He also indicated that over 700 dry tons of lime sludge was excavated from the lagoon in 2010.
6. The Oberlin WTP personnel land apply the lime sludge on local farmer's fields.
7. Mr. Mark Sanders, Lead Operator and Mr. Jon Love maintain these records.
8. The water treatment plant is currently only discharging from outfall 3IW00061003.
9. The discharge from outfall 3IW00061003 was clear and no visual impact to the receiving stream was observed.

This office has recently reviewed your self-monitoring reports covering the period January 1, 2010 through April 30, 2011 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:

Station	Reporting Code	Parameter	Limit Type	Limit	Reported Value	Violation Date
003	00400	pH	1D Conc	9	9.4	2/1/2010
003	00400	pH	1D Conc	9	9.5	3/1/2010
003	00400	pH	1D Conc	9.0	9.4	11/15/2010
003	00400	pH	1D Conc	9.0	9.2	12/1/2010
003	00400	pH	1D Conc	9.0	9.2	1/5/2011
003	00400	pH	1D Conc	9.0	9.5	2/7/2011

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
Environmental Engineer
Division of Surface Water

MWS/mt

pc: Jerry Hade, Water Superintendent, Oberlin WTP