



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Northeast District Office

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

June 8, 2009

RE: SHEARER'S FOODS, INC.
IDP #3DP00031

Mr. Scott Smith, President
Shearer's Foods, Inc.
692 North Wabash Ave.
P.O. Box 116
Brewster, OH 44613

Dear Mr. Smith:

On June 3, 2009, this writer met with representatives of Shearer's Foods in response to recent odor complaints that have been received by Ohio EPA. Present during the meeting were Robert Shearer, Scott Weyandt, Ken Brower, Ken Rigby, Chad Looney, and Randy Hall of Shearer's Foods, and Don Whittingham, AquaBlue, Inc.

According to the complainants, the odors began on the evening of May 30th. Prior to our meeting, I drove through the residential neighborhood located on the west side of SR 93 across from Shearer's Foods. The odors in this area were severe and extremely offensive.

Flow data for the Shearer's wastewater treatment plant was presented during the meeting which revealed that the treatment system is organically overloaded. The final effluent limitation for flow (200,000 gallons per day) contained in your Indirect Discharge Permit (IDP) was exceeded on twelve occasions during May 2009. On May 20, the daily flow peaked at 271,600 gallons. As the treatment system is designed to treat a maximum of 200,000 gallons per day, these high flows resulted in an organic overload to the treatment system. The excessive organic load drove down the dissolved oxygen level in the sequencing batch reactors to 0.2 mg/l, resulting in odors.

In an effort to reduce odors, hydrogen peroxide was being fed into the waste stream as an oxygen source. Other actions proposed to help reduce odors include repairing the surface aerators in the SBRs, adding a scavenger chemical to the SBR tanks to neutralize hydrogen sulfide gas and mercaptans, and the installation of a centrifuge during the week of June 8th to collect solids before they enter the treatment system.

An inspection of the SBR system was conducted after the meeting. The odors emanating from the tanks were severe. The treatment system was however, producing an effluent that appeared to be of satisfactory quality.



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In subsequent correspondence with Mr. Looney, I was informed that the surface aerators were repaired and placed into operation along with the scavenger system on June 5th. Flow violations also occurred on June 3rd and June 4th. Three production units were taken off line beginning June 5th to reduce the organic load to the treatment system. Dissolved oxygen levels returned to normal in the SBR tanks on June 8th. As I explained during the meeting, the only effective course of action to rectify these situations is to reduce the organic load to the treatment system immediately. This action allows the oxygen levels to increase in the SBRs which will result in the elimination of the odors. This is the third instance of excessive odors from your treatment system since August 2007.

Please respond to this office, in writing, as to the measures that will be put into place to prevent such an occurrence in the future. A long term plan for ensuring minimum dissolved oxygen levels in the SBRs during the summer months must be included with your submittal. As August is normally a very warm month which precedes a significant holiday weekend, your plan needs to specifically address this time period.

Should you have any questions or comments regarding this letter, please feel free to contact this office at (330) 963-1197.

Sincerely,



Dean W. Stoll, P.E.
Environmental Engineer
Division of Surface Water

DWS/mt

cc: Mayor and Council, Village of Brewster
Steve Hartman, Village of Brewster
Mike Maybaugh, Village of Brewster
Chad Looney, Shearer's Foods, Inc.
Denny Tan, Canton City Health Department

ec: Caroline Markworth, Ohio EPA, PIC, CO

File: Industrial User/Shearer's Foods, Inc.