



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Northeast District Office

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

March 12, 2010

RE: ASHTABULA COUNTY  
ASHTABULA – COFFEE CREEK WWTP  
OHIO EPA PERMIT 3PG00145  
COMPLIANCE INSPECTION EVALUATION

Mr. Lawrence J. Meaney, Director  
Ashtabula County Department of Environmental Services  
36 West Walnut Avenue  
Jefferson, OH 44047

Dear Mr. Meaney:

On March 10, 2010, a site inspection was conducted at the above referenced facility at 2949 Industrial Park Drive, Austinburg Township, Ashtabula County. The inspection was conducted by John Schmidt of this office. Mark Verzella represented Ashtabula County Department of Environmental Services (ACDES). The purpose of the inspection was to evaluate the facility's compliance status with respect to the terms and conditions of the facility's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The last compliance inspection was conducted on July 29, 2008.

The system consists of screening grit removal, lift station, comminutor, equalization basin, aeration tanks, clarification, sand filtration, UV disinfection, and post disinfection aeration. Sludge management consists of sludge holding tanks, aerobic digestion and settling tanks. Sludge handling includes sludge tanks and belt filter press, with provisions for drying on sludge drying beds. Pressed sludge placed into a covered dumpster or stockpiled on a concrete pad for off-site disposal at a solid waste disposal facility. The facility discharges to Coffee Creek adjacent to the north side of the facility. Generators provide backup power to the entire facility.

### Observations

Following are observations made during the inspection.

1. The overall condition of the treatment plant during this inspection was satisfactory with the plant well kept. Screenings and grit was containerized for disposal at a solid waste landfill.
2. The content of the aeration tank had good color and mixing. Sludge returns were a chocolate brown color, with minimal foaming. The surface of the clarifier was clear. The effluent trough was clean and there was no scum around the effluent baffle or the trough.

3. The sand filters had debris floating on the surface, but the clarifier weirs had just been cleaned and this was some minor carryover from the cleaning. The effluent discharged to the sand filter during the inspection was clear and free of color and turbidity. The wastewater percolated freely through the sand indicating that the beds were not clogged.
4. The final effluent was clear. The final discharge at the creek was not inspected due to snow cover.

**NPDES Permit Compliance Review**

A review of the electronic discharge self-monitoring reports (eDMRs) received by Ohio EPA for the period July 1, 2008 through March 1, 2010 indicates apparent noncompliance of the terms and conditions of your NPDES permit. Specific instances of noncompliance are as follows:

Limit Violations

The following limit violations were noted:

Station	Reporting Code	Parameter	Limit Type	Limit	Reported Value	Violation Date
001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3)	7D Conc	1.8	2.6	7/22/2009

If ACDES feel some of Ohio EPA's reporting records are in error, you may wish to reenter this information through the eDMR system or mail your data to Ohio EPA DSW central office and request that the data be entered on your behalf. Ohio EPA's eDMR support staff may also be available to assist you in this matter. Emailing questions to [James.Roberts@epa.state.oh.us](mailto:James.Roberts@epa.state.oh.us) is the quickest way to get a response if you have a specific question with the eDMR program or how to make corrections to what is reported in the eDMR program.

Reporting Violations

No reporting violations were noted for the period reviewed.

Compliance Schedule Violations

The following compliance schedule violations were noted:

Permit Effective Date	Permit Expiration Date	Schedule Due Date	Completion Date	Event Code	Schedule Type	Schedule Milestone
10/1/2008	11/30/2010	12/1/2008	Unknown	4599	Plans	Submit
10/1/2008	11/30/2010	6/30/2009	Unknown	4599	Contract	Award contracts
10/1/2008	11/30/2010	9/1/2009	Unknown	4599	Construction	Commence Construction

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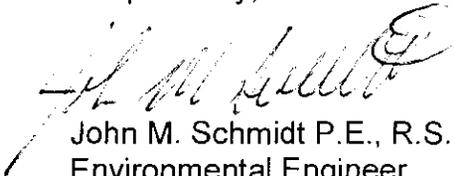
Please note that the milestones provided reflect the modification permit you requested and received July 30, 2008, with an effective date of October 1, 2008. During our discussions at your office with Mr. Verzella, you indicated that you are working with Mr. Wen-Tong Lin of Ohio EPA's Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (DEFA), and that you were anticipating construction to be completed by the end of 2010. Please provide the dates the remaining milestones. ACDES will remain in violation of its compliance schedule until overdue milestones have been completed.

Based upon the inspection findings and the overall compliance record of the facility, the facility is considered to be in substantial compliance; however the above limit violations and compliance schedule violations should be explained, along with a resolution.

Please inform this office, in writing, within 30 days of the date of this letter as to the actions we discussed that have been or will be taken to correct the above noncompliance or explanations if you believe the noncompliance issues noted are in error. Your response to this letter should include the dates that the actions have been or will be completed. Please be advised that past or present issues of noncompliance can continue as subjects of future enforcement actions by Ohio EPA.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this notification, please feel free to contact me at (330) 963-1175.

Respectively,



John M. Schmidt P.E., R.S.  
Environmental Engineer  
Division of Surface Water

JMS/mt

File: Municipal/ASH Coffee Creek WWTP (Ashtabula Co.)/PC