Ohio | Environmental Protection Agency

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

June 30, 2011

RE: GEAUGA COUNTY
VARIOUS PLANTS
NPDES PRE-PERMIT INSPECTIONS

Mr. Doug Bowen
470 Center Street, Bldg #3
Chardon, Ohio 44024

Dear Mr. Bowen:

On June 16, 2011, Rich Blasick, Kelly McVay and I met with Jim Reeder, Geauga County Water Resources Operation Manager, to inspect five County operated waste water treatment plants (WWTPs). The intent of the inspections was to assess the operations and maintenance of the treatment systems and notify you of NPDES permit violations prior to renewal of the NPDES permits. The monthly operating reports (MORs) from June 1st, 2009 to June 1st, 2011 were reviewed for compliance with the current NPDES permits.

Kimberly Estates (3PG00004)

The flow splitter was clogged and causing the north aeration tank to turn a dark brown almost black color indicating old sludge. It is recommended that improvements to the splitter box be evaluated to improve operations. The weirs in the clarifiers had some algae growing on them and need to be cleaned on a regular basis.

The NPDES permit violations: There were three DO limit violations with the last occurring August 13th, 2008, as well as five sets of frequency violations in March 2010.

Willow Hills (3PG00009)

The flow equalization tank had been taken off-line at the time of the inspection. Mr. Reeder mentioned that the equalization tank had been taken off-line due to some piping problems that were causing trash to get washed trough the trash trap when returning flow to the head of the plant. Please provide this office with a plan outlining the improvements necessary to restore proper operation of the equalization basin.

The NPDES permit violations: There were three limit violations with the last one occurring in November 2009, as well as three frequency violations of color, odor and turbidity on December 9, 2010.

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Belle Vernon (3PG00010)

The aeration tanks seemed to be normal with good color and no odor. The sludge return lines were a good color with no foaming. The dosing pump chart recorder discs showed that the filters were bypassed during February. The weirs in the clarifier were beginning to deteriorate and will need to be replaced soon. The sand filters needed to be leveled to avoid any more gullying of the sand and the possibility of a short circuit of the filters. Mr. Reeder discussed the possibility of subdividing the sand filters to improve operations and reduce maintenance effort. This office has no objections to this proposal.

The NPDES permit violations: There were several limit violations with the last one being a TSS violation occurring in March 2011, as well as frequency violations from November 9th, 2010 to November 30th, 2010

Russell Park (3PG00001)

The bar rack at the head of the plant is broken and needs to be replaced. The aeration tanks were in good condition with good color and mixing. The weirs in the clarifiers need to be cleaned on a regular basis to keep algae from building up. The rapid sand filters were out of service and were being bypassed due to flooding that destroyed the control panel. Mr. Reeder indicated that they were in the process of getting the system back on-line; please provide our office with a schedule to complete this repair. The final effluent line has been modified to reduce the impact (back flow from the stream) on the plant as a result of high stream flows. It appears that the old effluent line still needs to be plugged to prevent flooding of the plant site. The effluent appeared to be clear with no odor.

The NPDES permit violations: There were several limit violations with the last one being a TSS violation occurring in April 2011, as well as frequency violations from November 15th, 2010 to November 30th, 2010.

Wenhaven (3PG00008)

The aeration tank seemed to be in good condition with good color and mixing. One of the UV bulbs was out and was noted in the log book for the day of the inspection.

The NPDES permit violations: There were three instances that this plant violated the monthly limit for TSS or CBOD. Effluent limit violations must be explained, along with measures to ensure that they are not repeated.

Parameter	Limit Type	Limit	Reported Value	Violation Date
Total Suspended Solids	7D Conc	18	24.	3/8/2010
Total Suspended Solids	30D Qty	0.328	.55232	3/1/2010
Total Suspended Solids	7D Qty	0.491	2.52136	3/8/2010
Total Suspended Solids	30D Qty	0.328	1.67507	12/1/2010
Total Suspended Solids	7D Qty	0.491	1.67507	12/15/2010
CBOD 5 day	30D Qty	0.273	.47859	12/1/2010
CBOD 5 day	7D Qty	0.409	.47859	12/15/2010
pH	1D Conc	6.5	6.21	12/29/2010

Should you have any comments or questions regarding this letter, please contact this office at (330)963-1164 or by email at david.rischar@epa.state.oh.us.

Respectfully,

David J. Rischar
Assistant to the District Engineer
Division of Surface Water

DJR/mt