



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Northeast District Office

cc: San Eng.

SEP 24 2009

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

September 16, 2009

RE: LORAIN COUNTY
PLUM CREEK WWTP
NPDES NO. 3PG00052

Lorain County Commissioners
Administration Building
216 Middle Avenue
Elyria, OH 44035

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Dear Commissioners:

On September 10, 2009, a Compliance Evaluation Inspection (CEI) was conducted on the Plum Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). Present during the inspection were Messrs. Steve Canfield and Nick Webber, of the Lorain County Sanitary Engineers Office; Mr. John Sabo of the Lorain County Health Department; and this writer, of Ohio EPA. The inspection was conducted to evaluate the present operation and maintenance conditions at the WWTP, and to evaluate its compliance with the terms and conditions of its NPDES permit.

At the time of the September 10th inspection, the following observations were made:

- 1) The trash trap was in use and its contents were typical. The flow equalization tank was in operation and it was being well aerated. Contents of the flow equalization tank were turbid gray.
- 2) The extended aeration tank contents were medium brown in color, with no foam present. The suspended solids (MLSS) content appeared to be at a normal operating concentration. The return sludge line was operating and returning brown water.
- 3) The settling tank contents were typical, and the mechanical scrapers were operating. Effluent from the settling tank was clear, there was no solids deposition or algal growth in the troughs, and the skimmer line was operating and returning clear water to the aeration tank.
- 4) The upflow clarifiers were in use, and water above the plastic media was clear, with no solids deposition.
- 5) The surface sand filters were in use, and both cells had only a few weeds growing in the sand. The sand should be kept raked level in both cells.
- 6) Final effluent disinfection is accomplished with chlorine and dechlorination tablets. Tablets for both processes were present in the units, although both chlorination and dechlorination units were missing 2 of 4 tubes in the units.
- 7) The small trickle of effluent being discharged from the WWTP was clear and colorless, and was free of foam.
- 8) The Aerated Sludge Holding tank was approximately 2/3 full, was well aerated and medium brown in color, and exhibited no odor.

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The last Compliance Evaluation Inspection (CEI) conducted at the Plum Creek WWTP was on September 3, 2008. Since the last CEI, the Plum Creek WWTP has reported the following NPDES Permit effluent violations in their monthly electronic Discharge Monitoring Reports (eDMR):

**PLUM CREEK WWTP
 NPDES PERMIT NO. 3PG00052
 EFFLUENT LIMIT VIOLATIONS
 (9/ 1/08 –9/ 1/09)**

Reporting Period	Parameter	Unit/Type	Limit	Reported Value	Violation Date
November 2008	Total Suspended Solids	30D Conc	12	25.875	11/1/2008
November 2008	Total Suspended Solids	7D Conc	18	74.5	11/1/2008
November 2008	Total Suspended Solids	7D Conc	18	21.	11/8/2008
December 2008	Total Suspended Solids	7D Conc	18	21.4	12/8/2008
December 2008	Total Suspended Solids	7D Qty	2.7	6.51232	12/8/2008
February 2009	Total Suspended Solids	7D Qty	2.7	3.62876	2/8/2009
February 2009	CBOD 5 day	7D Qty	2.3	3.04556	2/8/2009
March 2009	Total Suspended Solids	30D Qty	1.8	2.06061	3/1/2009
March 2009	Total Suspended Solids	7D Conc	18	26.	3/8/2009
March 2009	Total Suspended Solids	7D Qty	2.7	9.53593	3/8/2009
June 2009	Fecal Coliform	30D Conc	1000	2300.	6/1/2009
June 2009	Fecal Coliform	7D Conc	2000	2300.	6/8/2009
July 2009	Total Suspended Solids	30D Conc	12	13.25	7/1/2009
July 2009	Total Suspended Solids	7D Conc	18	40.	7/1/2009
August 2009	Total Suspended Solids	30D Conc	12	16.75	8/1/2009
August 2009	Total Suspended Solids	7D Conc	18	35.	8/1/2009
August 2009	Total Suspended Solids	7D Conc	18	22.	8/22/2009

The County should continue with all efforts that will enable the Plum Creek WWTP to consistently meet its NPDES Permit limits. Please submit a report to this office detailing the reasons for the effluent numeric violations, and what actions will be taken to prevent further exceedances.

If there are any comments or questions concerning this document, you may contact me at (330) 963-1110.

Respectfully,



Charles E. Allen
 Environmental Engineer
 Division of Surface Water

CEA/mt

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