



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Northwest District Office

347 North Dunbridge Rd.
Bowling Green, OH 43402-9398

TELE: (419) 352-8461 FAX: (419) 352-8468
www.epa.ohio.gov

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

Re: Mercer County
Mercer County Commissioners
NPDES Permit

June 30, 2010

Mercer County Commissioners
220 West Livingston Street
Suite A 230
Celina, Ohio 45822

Dear Commissioners:

On June 10, 2010, operation and maintenance inspections were made of the wastewater treatment facilities serving Country Time, Northwood, West Jefferson, Wagners, Philothea, Chapel Hill, and Montezuma Club Island area. Mr. James Karafit, Lab Tech, was present and provided information about the operation of the treatment facilities to Ohio EPA representatives Michelle Sharp, Judson Delancey and Sarah Clement. Our observations and recommendations are as follows:

Country Time

The aeration tank was light in color, but was receiving an adequate amount of air. At the time of inspection, the sludge return was not working and one blower was out. The clarifier appeared to be grey and had black solids floating in it. The sand filters had solids on them and there was ponding and plant growth observed on the surface. Chlorination and dechlorination tablets were observed in the feeders. There was some foam and solids observed in the effluent.

Jim indicated that the county stops and checks on the plant, but not as regularly as the other plants that are permitted. Our office has requested a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination (NPDES) permit application for this facility several times. **If we do not receive the application within 30 days of the date of this letter we will be referring the facility for escalated enforcement.**

Northwood

At the time of the inspection, the wastewater treatment plant appeared to be operating fair. The water in the Imhoff tank appeared to be grey and had solids floating on it.



The trickling filter appeared to have a plugged nozzle causing water to spray to the ground instead of in the trickling filter. The water in the settling tank appeared to be grey. Currently there are three (3) sand filters in use. Jim indicated that since they are no longer allowed to pile the solids outside of the filters they create little piles within the filters until they have enough to bring in the backhoe and haul them to the landfill. Chlorination and dechlorination tablets were observed in the feeders. The effluent appeared to be good.

The northeast sewer project, which will eliminate the Northwood package plant is scheduled to be substantially complete on October 15 of this year. Some residents of the Northwood subdivision are considering using the Northwood treatment facilities to continue to collect storm water and treat it. **Please let us know within 30 days of the northeast sewer project going online what the plans are for the treatment plant.**

We are in receipt of the discharge monitoring reports from June 2009, through May 2010. Our review indicates violations of the terms and conditions of your NPDES permit. The specific instances of noncompliance are listed below:

Violation Date	Station	Reporting Code	Parameter	Limit Type	Limit	Reported Value
3/15/2010	001	80082	CBOD 5 day	7D Qty	2.8	3.52573
4/1/2010	001	00530	Total Suspended Solids	30D Qty	2.3	3.14893
4/1/2010	001	00530	Total Suspended Solids	7D Qty	3.4	10.2611
4/1/2010	001	80082	CBOD 5 day	7D Qty	2.8	5.02796
5/1/2010	001	00530	Total Suspended Solids	30D Qty	2.3	2.59008
5/1/2010	001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3)	30D Qty	0.4	.64527
5/15/2010	001	00530	Total Suspended Solids	7D Qty	3.4	4.58288
5/15/2010	001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3)	7D Qty	0.6	.91658
5/15/2010	001	80082	CBOD 5 day	7D Qty	2.8	3.43716

West Jefferson

Jim indicated that due to the flow the plant receives they are only utilizing half of the package plant. The aeration tanks were receiving an adequate amount of air and had a healthy brown color. The returns and skimmers were in and operating well. The clarifiers and upflow filters appeared to be operating well. The sand filters had a lot of solids on 2 of them and there was ponding observed. The effluent appeared to be good.

It was indicated that there had been an issue with the clarifier missing a baffle and that there was an inflow and infiltration problem when the jail tied into the system; however, at the time of inspection these issues had been fixed and the plant was operating better.

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Violation Date	Station	Reporting Code	Parameter	Limit Type	Limit	Reported Value
6/1/2009	001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3)	30D Conc	1.5	1.8
7/1/2009	001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3)	30D Conc	1.5	2.4
7/1/2009	001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3)	7D Conc	2.3	2.4
8/1/2009	001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3)	30D Conc	1.5	8.9
8/1/2009	001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3)	7D Conc	2.3	8.9
8/1/2009	001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3)	30D Qty	0.4	.93312
8/1/2009	001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3)	7D Qty	0.6	.93312

Wagner's Subdivision

In general, both operation and maintenance appeared fair. All major treatment components were in operation, and a clear effluent was observed. The mixed liquor in the aeration tanks had good color and was receiving an adequate amount of air. The sludge return and skimmer were both operating, but the sludge return was light in color.

The clarifier had a significant amount of solids in them. The sand filters had solids in them and had plants growing. Chlorination and dechlorination tablets were observed in the tube feeders. Mr. Karafit indicated that a new style of diffusers had been installed and that had improved the air in the aeration tank.

In a letter dated April 30, 2009, from Mr. Kent Hinton, stated that the sand filters are bypassed in the winter due to freezing. **This is a violation of your NPDES permit.** To receive the proper treatment the wastewater should go through all of the treatment processes. If operated properly the sand filters should not freeze in the winter. If this practice is continued in the future it could lead to escalated enforcement.

We are in receipt of the discharge monitoring reports from June 2009, through May 2010. Our review indicates no violations of the terms and conditions of your NPDES permit.

Philothea

In general, both operation and maintenance appeared good. The aerator in the second lagoon was out for repairs. The lagoons were not discharging at the time of inspection.

We are in receipt of the discharge monitoring reports from June 2009, through May 2010. Our review indicates no violations of the terms and conditions of your NPDES permit.

Chapel Hill

In general, both operation and maintenance appeared good. All major treatment components were in operation, and a clear effluent was observed. The aeration tanks were a healthy brown and were receiving an adequate amount of air. The clarifier appeared good. The sand filters were in fair condition. They had weed growth and solids in them. Chlorination and dechlorination tablets were observed in the tube feeder.

We are in receipt of the discharge monitoring reports from June 2009, through May 2010. Our review has indicated no violations of the terms and conditions of your NPDES permit.

Montezuma Club Island

In general, both operation and maintenance appeared good. The lagoons were not discharging at the time of inspection. Mr. Karafit indicated that sludge was no longer being put in the second lagoon from the other treatment plants.

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We are in receipt of the discharge monitoring reports from June 2009, through May 2010. Our review indicates no violations of the terms and conditions of your NPDES permit.

Please be advised that failure to comply with the effluent limitations and/or monitoring requirements, including adequate laboratory controls, appropriate quality assurance procedures, and records retention, as specified in Part III of your NPDES permit may be cause for enforcement action pursuant to Ohio Revised Code, Chapter 6111. If these violations continue to occur and if satisfactory progress is not made, it may be necessary to initiate enforcement action to achieve compliance.

Our completed inspection reports are enclosed for your review. If you have any questions, please call Michelle Sharp at (419) 373-3019.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth A. Wick, P.E.
District Engineer
Division of Surface Water

/llr

pc: Mr. Kent Hinton, Director of Mercer County Sanitary Department
DSW-NWDO File w/ enclosures

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Elizabeth A. Wick, P.E.
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Division of Surface Water

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pc: Mr. Kent Hinton, Director of Mercer County Sanitary Department
D:\SW\NWDO-File w/ enclosures

bc: Jared Ebbing, Mercer County Economic Development