

January 18, 2011

RE: THE FARM AT WALNUT CREEK  
OHIO EPA PERMIT 3PR00441  
WALNUT CREEK TWP., HOLMES COUNTY  
COMPLIANCE EVALUATION INSPECTIONMr. Henry Hampton  
The Farm at Walnut Creek  
P.O. Box 121  
Walnut Creek, OH 44687

Dear Mr. Hampton:

On January 12, 2011, a site inspection was conducted at the above referenced facility at 4147 County Road 114, Walnut Creek Township, Holmes County. The inspection was conducted by John Schmidt of this office and Kraig Bucklew of the Holmes County Health Department. Nobody was available from the Farm at Walnut Creek during the inspection. 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 November 5, 2009.

The system consists of a 500 gallon trash trap, 1661 gallon aerated equalization basin, 3,000 gallon extended aeration system with clarifier, dosing chamber, 272 SF surface sand filtration, chlorine disinfection, and dechlorination. Sludge management consists of sludge removal from the extended aeration system to a 1,000 gallon aerated sludge holding tank, with periodic removal when needed to another POTW. The facility discharges to a storage pond (see attached pictures) located west of the facility. The facility has no backup power, but has alarms.

**Observations**

The following observations were made during the inspection.

1. The design flow of the extended aeration plant is 3,000 gallons per day. The extended aeration plant operates intermittently on a timer, with the sand filter operating on a float system in the dosing tank. The plant was not discharging to the storage ponds at the time of the inspection.
2. The influent pumps were cycled and found in operating condition. The alarm was found in operating condition.
3. The content of the aeration tank had a slight earthy odor, light to medium brown color, a small amount of foaming with good mixing. The blowers were running and the plant was receiving sufficient aeration. The plant color, foaming, and aeration are indicators that the plant is organically under loaded, expected for this time of year. A chocolate brown color is more typical of a properly operating aeration system.

4. The surface of the clarifier was frozen and was not discharging. Effluent channels and weirs were observed in good condition. The sludge return lines were operating properly at the time of the inspection. The skimmer was not operable at the time of the inspection at the direction of the Holmes County Health Department. The skimmer operates when the operator is at the facility.
5. The dosing station pumps were cycled and found in operable condition (see attached pictures).
6. The condition of the surface sand filters was in good condition and was snow covered (see attached pictures). Condition of the entire filter surface was not observed due to heavy snow cover.
7. Chlorination and dechlorination systems were not examined, as the inspection was conducted outside of the disinfection season.
8. No discharge to the irrigation pond was observed due to the lack of flow from the sand filters.
9. Ohio EPA understands that Dave Schlabach performs operations and maintenance, monitors the facility, performs routine sampling, and reports data for this facility on the electronic discharge monitoring report (eDMR) system.

#### **NPDES Permit Compliance Review**

The Farm at Walnut Creek operates under Permit 3PR00441\*AD. A review of the electronic discharge self-monitoring reports (eDMRs) received by Ohio EPA for the period November 1, 2009 through January 1, 2011 indicates no apparent noncompliance of the terms and conditions of your NPDES permit as identified below:

#### **Comments**

1. **Requirement to Submit a Land Application Management Plan:** Since construction of this system, Ohio EPA has promulgated Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) Rule 3745-42-13 for land application systems. The rule became effective on July 1, 2007. As a system in operation prior to the effective date of the rule, OAC 3745-42-13(E)(2) requires that the Farm at Walnut Creek submit a land application management plan no later than July 1, 2012. Note that this is in addition to an NPDES permit renewal. The plan must comply with OAC 3745-42-13(E)(1), including applicable application requirements, design standards, siting restrictions, operations and maintenance requirements, and water quality/monitoring frequency requirements. The permit application components should follow the summary table outlined in OAC 3745-42-13(F) for a design flow of less than 10,000 gpd with a land application rate as appropriate. Base upon visual observations made during the July 14, 2010 site visit, a land application rate of less than 12 inches per acre per year are anticipated. If this land application rate is used, then the permit application

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requirements should follow OAC 3745-42-13(F)(1), G, H, I, J, K (Table K-3 for Q<10,000 gpd), L, M, N, and O. I have attached both a fact sheet on OAC 3745-42-13 and a copy of the actual rule for your reference.

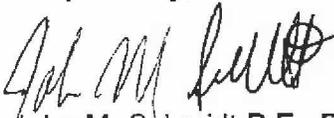
Once a land application management plan is approved, Ohio EPA can evaluate whether an NPDES permit is still appropriate for this facility.

2. Notification of Operator of Record: Ohio EPA recommends that we be formally notified of your designated operator of record, as Ohio EPA maintains a database of operators associated with specific facilities. If the NPDES Permit is renewed, it will become a requirement of the permit, as well as the land application plan. A copy of the single page notification form may be found at [http://epa.ohio.gov/portals/35/opcert/Operator\\_of\\_Record\\_Notification\\_Form.pdf](http://epa.ohio.gov/portals/35/opcert/Operator_of_Record_Notification_Form.pdf). Please submit this form to Ohio EPA's Operator Certification Unit with a copy provided to my attention at the Northeast District Office.

Based on the above information, the Farm at Walnut Creek is considered to be in substantial compliance with the terms and conditions of its NPDES permit. However, the above operator of record notification must be addressed.

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

Respectively,

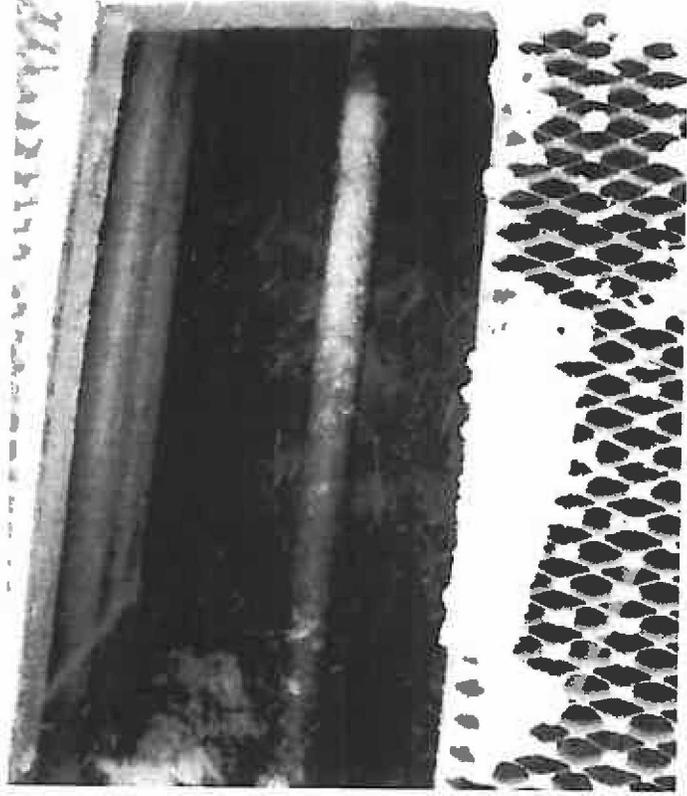
  
John M. Schmidt P.E., R.S.  
Environmental Engineer  
Division of Surface Water

JMS/mt

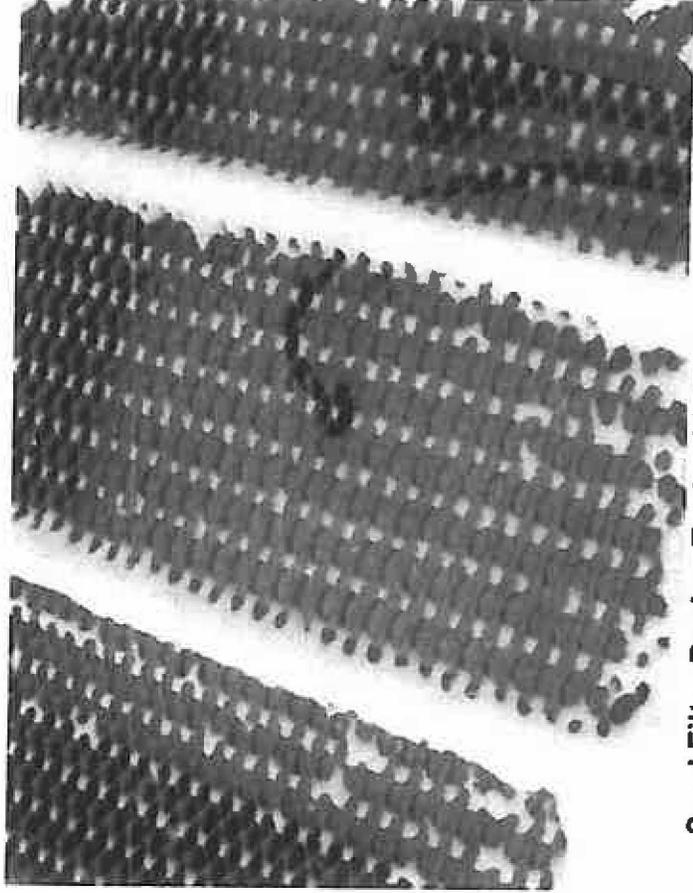
Att: Land Application Fact Sheet, OAC 3745-42-13  
Operator of Record Notification Form

pc: Kraig Bucklew, Holmes County Health Department

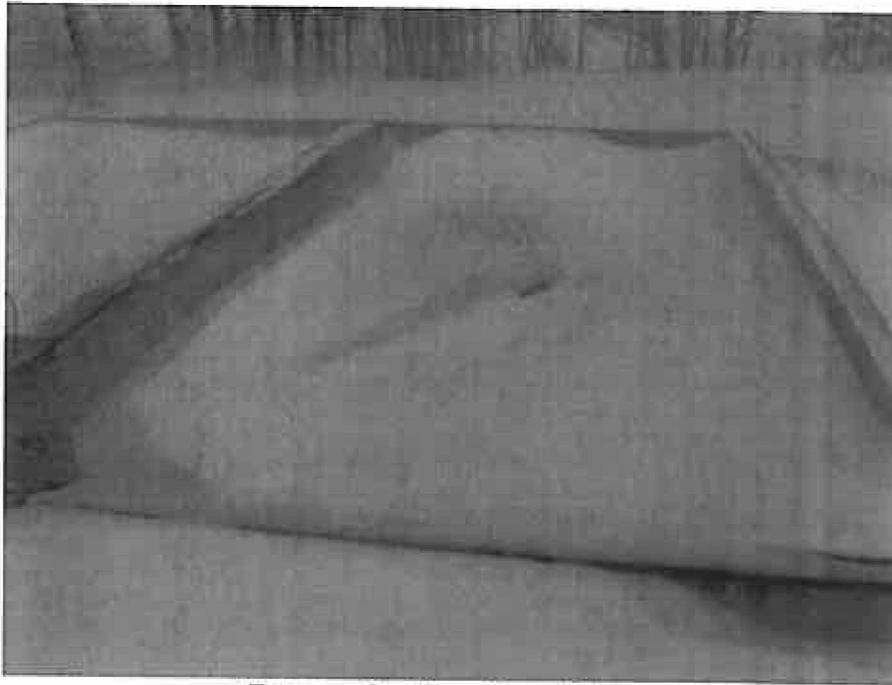
File: Semipublic/Homes Co/Walnut Creek Twp/The Farm at Walnut Creek



**Aeration System**



**Sand Filter Dosing Tank with Temporary Sump Line**



**Frozen Surface Sand Filter**



**Frozen Irrigation Pond**