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CUYAHOGA GARFIELD HEIGHTS CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS 3GQ00008 2010/12/14 BOGOEVSKI,
DANIEL

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**Environmental
Protection Agency**

Rep. DeWeese, Governor
Lt. Fischer, Lt. Governor
Carol Lutwick, Director

December 14, 2010

RE: Cuyahoga County
City of Garfield Heights and
Village of Valley View
Municipal Storm Water Program -
Pollution Prevention and Good
Housekeeping for Municipal Operations

Mr. Ladd Soldat, Service Director
Village of Valley View
6848 Hathaway Road
Valley View, OH 44125

Mr. David Krock, Public Service Director
City of Garfield Heights
5407 Turney Road
Garfield Heights, OH 44125

Dear Mr. Soldat and Mr. Krock:

On December 1, 2010, Erm Gomes and I noted a discharge of storm water runoff to the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) along Granger Road from an abandoned property east of EAB Trucking. I had noted this discharge on several occasions in the past year and decided to investigate the source and determine if it resulted in an illicit discharge to the MS4. Illicit discharges to the MS4 are prohibited under Part III.B.3 of the Ohio EPA General Storm Water National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for Small MS4s #3GQ00019*BG (Valley View) and #3GQ00008*BG (Garfield Heights).

Our investigation found that catch basins and the storm sewers along Granger Road are blocked to the point where runoff that would ordinarily be carried in the MS4 along Granger is finding a path of lesser resistance onto the abandoned property east of EAB Trucking. The flow runs through that property before coming back out onto Granger Road where it eventually re-enters the MS4. However, the force of the flow through the abandoned property is such that it has eroded through asphalt and is now eroding earth, causing a discharge of sediment to the MS4. Sediment is a pollutant.

Please be aware that this constitutes an illicit discharge to the MS4. However, the illicit discharge is being caused due to the lack of storm sewer system maintenance along this stretch of Granger Road. Part III.B.6 of the NPDES permit for your community requires that the MS4 be maintained regularly as defined in the Storm Water Management Program (SWMP) developed by your community. A review of the SWMP and Annual Report for the Village of Valley View indicates that the Village has

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committed to inspecting 100 catch basins and cleaning out 40 catch basins in 2010. The City of Garfield Heights has committed to jet cleaning 20,000 linear feet of storm sewer and catch basins in 2010.

Because the area where blockage was observed appeared to be located in the Village of Valley View, we visited with Mr. Soldat after our site inspection to discuss the situation. In the days subsequent to our visit, Mr. Soldat investigated this matter and determined that although catch basins along Granger Road do require cleanout, the storm sewer system to which they connect continues down Granger and re-enters the City of Garfield Heights. Mr. Soldat's investigation indicates that there is a blockage in the storm sewer in the City of Garfield Heights. Although he is ready to clean out the catch basins in his community, the issue will not be resolved until the storm sewers within the City of Garfield Heights are cleaned to allow free flow of runoff through the system.

This letter will serve to notify both communities that maintenance must be conducted on the MS4 to remove this source of illicit discharge. Please review the matter and provide me with a letter of response indicating the actions your community has taken to address this source of illicit discharge. Include the dates action was taken or the proposed date by when action will be taken if this matter cannot be resolved within 30 days of this notice. Your responses should be received **no later than January 14, 2011**.

Please be aware that failure to comply with the NPDES permit is a violation of Ohio Revised Code 6111.04 and 6111.07 and is punishable by fines.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (330) 963-1145.

Sincerely,



Dan Bogoevski
District Engineer
Division of Surface Water

DB/mt

cc: Bill Wervey, Building Commissioner, City of Garfield Heights
Paul Dey, Engineer, Village of Valley View
Vic Colova, Mayor, City of Garfield Heights
Randall Westfall, Mayor, Village of Valley View

GRANGER ROAD SEWER BLOCKAGE
City of Garfield Heights and Village of Valley View

Photos Taken: December 1, 2010
By: Dan Bogoevski, DSW, NEDO

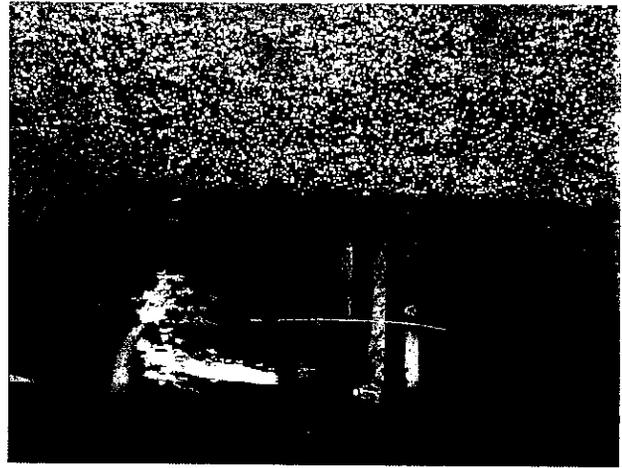


Fig 1 & 2. Catch basins along Granger Road are blocked causing runoff to flow onto a property east of EAB Trucking.

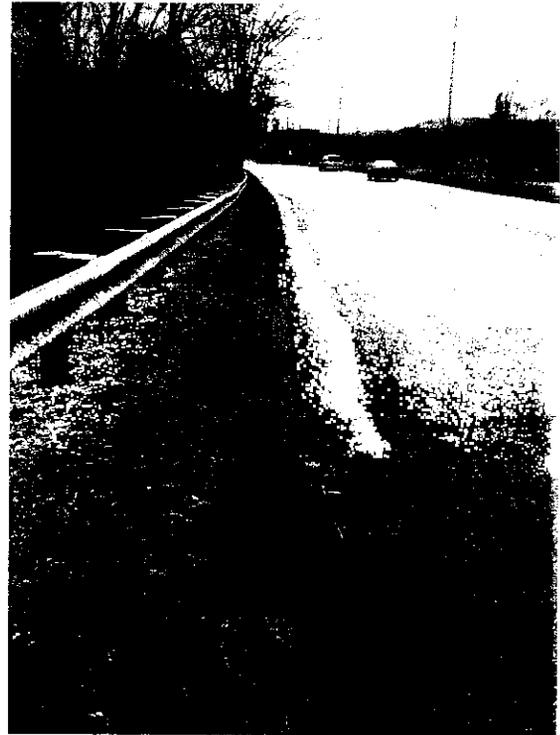
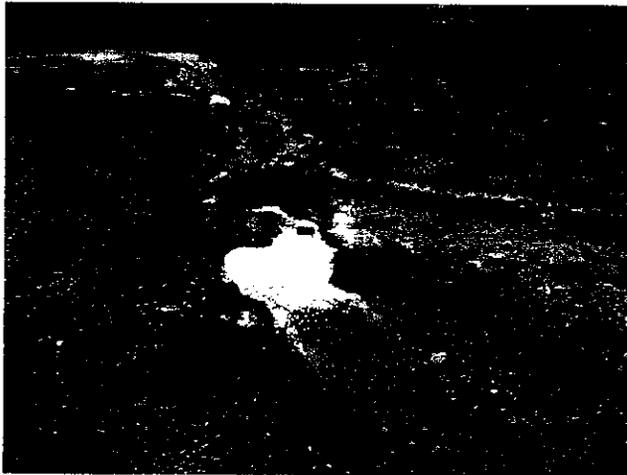


Fig 3 & 4. As runoff flows across the property east of EAB Trucking, it is causing erosion. The sediment dislodged by this process enters the MS4 as flow jumps back out onto Granger Road and enters the catch basin in the photograph to the right.