



Environment
Protection Agency

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

April 19, 2011

RE: WILLIAM WASSON, RIDGE VIEW ESTATES
NPDES PERMIT NO. 3PW00034
ASHTABULA TOWNSHIP, ASHTABULA CO.
COMPLIANCE EVALUATION INSPECTION
FOLLOWUP NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Mr. William Wasson, Owner
Ridge View Estates
P.O. Box 356
North Kingsville, OH 44068

Dear Mr. Watson:

On April 14, 2011, a follow up site inspection was conducted at the above referenced facility at 4419-4443 Erie Ridge Avenue, Ashtabula Township, Ashtabula County. The inspection was conducted by John Schmidt of this office, and Roger Osborn of Lewis Wastewater Management, contract operator, represented Ridge View Estates during the inspection. The purpose of the inspection was to follow up on a March 3, 2011 evaluation of the facility's compliance status with respect to the terms and conditions of the facility's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and to evaluate an April 11, 2011 response of work conducted on April 7-9, 2011. The last compliance inspection was conducted on March 3, 2011

The design flow of the extended aeration plant is 10,000 gallons per day. The collection system consists of both a gravity system from the apartment complex located along the east side of Erie Ridge Avenue. The treatment system, located on the east side of Erie Ridge Avenue, consists of flow equalization, a trash trap, extended aeration tanks, clarification, lift station, surface sand filtration, chlorine disinfection, dechlorination, and post disinfection aeration. Sludge management of sludge removal from the aeration system and trash trap when needed to another POTW. The facility discharges to the Ashtabula River located on the southeast side of the facility through about 300 feet of piping. No backup power is provided to the facility, but the facility is provided with alarms.

Observations

Following are observations made during the inspection.

1. The trash trap was found to have been emptied as indicated in the April 11, 2011 response.
2. The pumps that serve the flow equalization basin were cycled and found in operable condition. The alarms were tested and found in operating condition as indicated in the April 11, 2011 response.
3. The equalization basin was found to be sufficiently aerated.

4. The content of the aeration tank had an earthy odor, medium brown color with good mixing and no foam present. The blowers were cycled and found in operating condition. The blowers were running and the plant was receiving sufficient aeration. The aeration tank water level was unusually high, as indicated by observations 6 and 7. The color and odor are typical for the aeration tank in proper condition.
5. The clarifier was found to be flooded at least two feet above normal water levels (see pictures). The influent channel, baffles, effluent weir, and skimmer were not visible at the surface of the clarifier (see pictures). As a result, the clarifier was rendered incapable of providing settling, and the quality of the wastewater was the same as the aeration tank with no settling provided. After pumping for 45 minutes, the skimmer, weir, and influent/effluent channels came to view. The weir was noted in deteriorated condition (see attached pictures). The skimmer was found to be operating once the water levels were reduced.
6. The sand filter dosing pumps were found to have had the power cut off to them, and the water level was within a few inches of the grating (see pictures). The pumps were cycled and one pump was found not in operating condition. Apparently one of the pumps was removed and placed along the fence, which is consistent with your April 11, 2011 response that the pump repair was in progress. Roger Osborn then turned on the power to the dosing pumps and alarms by throwing the breaker switch north of the dosing tank. One of the pumps then began to operate and the alarms sounded. Once power was restored to the dosing station, the alarms were found in operating condition. After 45 minutes of pumping, the water levels in the dosing station, final clarifier, and aeration tank were returned to their normal operating levels.
7. The west sand filter was full of water and the east filter was empty, but has a layer of black sludge. Upon starting the pumps at the dosing station (Observation 6), the pumps began to discharge to the east sand bed. The observation is inconsistent with your April 11, 2011 response indicating that these beds had been cleaned. Once power was restored, water discharging to the east filter was turbid and full of sludge (see pictures). Within 45 minutes the water level was only a few inches from the top of the wall (see pictures). The sand filters were observed as not draining as fast as they should considering that they have had new sand added to them in 2010.
8. The plant is operated by Roger Osborn and Dustin Lewis of Lewis Wastewater Management on behalf of the Ridge View Estates. Lewis Wastewater Management collects samples, performs laboratory analyses, and electronically submits the data to the electronic discharge monitoring report (eDMR) system.

NPDES Permit Compliance Review

Ridge View Estates WWTP operates under NPDES Permit No. 3PW00034*BD. A review of the electronic discharge self-monitoring reports (eDMRs) received by Ohio EPA for the period February 1, 2010 and March 1, 2011 indicates the following apparent noncompliance of the terms and conditions of your NPDES permit.

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Effluent Limit Violations

The following effluent limit violations were noted:

<u>Station</u>	<u>Reporting Code</u>	<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Limit Type</u>	<u>Limit</u>	<u>Reported Value</u>	<u>Violation Date</u>
001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia	7D Qty	0.170	.19937	2/15/2011
001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia	7D Conc	4.5	6.02	2/15/2011
001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia	30D Qty	0.114	.19937	2/1/2011
001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia	30D Con	3.0	6.02	2/1/2011

Ohio EPA notes that the 2010 ammonia nitrogen violations placed you in significant noncompliance, and Ohio EPA notified you of this via letter on August 11, 2010. Your April 11, 2010 letter does not address these violations. As stated in my March 18, 2011 letter, a written explanation as to why the above limit violations and violations noted in my March 18, 2011 letter occurred must be provided along with measures to ensure that they are not repeated. If you feel some of Ohio EPA's reporting records are in error, you may wish to reenter this information through the eDMR system or mail your data to Ohio EPA DSW central office and request that the data be entered on your behalf. Ohio EPA's eDMR support staff may also be available to assist you in this matter. Emailing questions to James.Roberts@epa.state.oh.us is the quickest way to get a response if you have a specific question with the eDMR program or how to make corrections to what is reported in the eDMR program.

Reporting Violations

No reporting frequency or code violations were noted for the reporting period reviewed.

Compliance Schedule Violations

No compliance schedule violations were noted for the reporting period reviewed.

Other NPDES Violations

Duty to Mitigate or Prevent Discharges in Violation of Permit: Part III, Item 14 of your NPDES permit requires you to take all reasonable steps to minimize or prevent any discharge in violation of this permit. The following actions must be taken as soon as possible to comply with this provision of the permit:

- The effluent weir is noted in advanced deterioration, and must be replaced. You indicated in your March 12, 2010 response that the existing weir would be evaluated in April 2010. This weir must be replaced as soon as possible.
- Although you indicated in your April 11, 2011 letter that the sand beds had been cleaned, they were observed as full of sludge and sludge residue. The sand beds must be cleaned out immediately and materials placed in a container for appropriate disposal.
- The source of the slow draining sand beds must be investigated. As you indicated in your April 11, 2011 response that repairs have been completed to the final discharge

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line, the problem may lie within the sand beds themselves. The beds may have a root mass established in them, requiring them to be dug up and rebuilt.

- The sand filter dosing pump repairs must be completed as soon as possible.

Comment

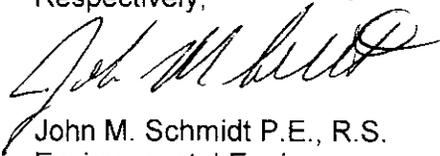
From examination of Ohio EPA's files, the operators of record are listed as Mark Lewis and Roger Osborn. The Operator of Record should be revised to reflect current operators for this site.

Based upon the inspection findings and the overall compliance record of the facility, the Ridge View Estates is considered to be in **noncompliance** with the terms and conditions of its NPDES permit. I would like to reschedule another site visit once repairs are completed and when your operator is available. The above items must be addressed.

Please inform this office, in writing, within 14 days of the date of this letter as to the actions we discussed that have been or will be taken to correct the above noncompliance or explanations if you believe the noncompliance issues noted are in error. Your response to this letter should include the dates that the actions have been or will be completed. Due to the nature of the violations and continued noncompliance, this matter will be referred for enforcement actions by Ohio EPA.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this notification, 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

pc: Dustin Lewis, Lewis Wastewater Management

File: SP/Ashtabula/Geneva Twp./Ridge View Estates 3PW00034