



Environmental
Protection Agency

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

March 7, 2011

RE: WILLIAM WATSON, RIDGE VIEW ESTATES
NPDES PERMIT NO. 3PW00034
ASHTABULA TOWNSHIP, ASHTABULA CO.
COMPLIANCE EVALUATION INSPECTION

Mr. William Watson, Owner
Ridge View Estates
P.O. Box 356
Ashtabula, OH 44004

Dear Mr. Watson:

On March 3, 2011, a 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 no one represented Ridge View Estates 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 January 21, 2010.

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 an unnamed tributary of the Ashtabula River located on the east side of the facility. 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 design flow of the extended aeration plant is 10,000 gallons per day. The plant operates on a timer and was not operating at the time of the inspection.
2. The trash trap was found to full of compacted materials, and does not appear to have been emptied for some time. The trash trap should be inspected as a part of each visit by your certified operator and materials removed from the system as needed.

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3. The pumps that serve the flow equalization basin were cycled and found in operable condition. The alarms were tested and found not in operating condition. The source of the alarm malfunction should be investigated and corrected as soon as possible.
4. The equalization basin was found to be sufficiently aerated.
5. 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 color and odor are typical for the aeration tank in proper condition.
6. The surface of the clarifier was turbid. Effluent channels and weirs could not be observed due to either being missing or submerged. The weir was noted in deteriorated condition at the last inspection, and you notified Ohio EPA on March 12, 2010 and indicated that the existing weir would be evaluated in April 2010. The skimmer could also not be located.
7. The sand filter dosing pumps were cycled and found not in operating condition, with the dosing tank flooded and discharging overland to the creek (see attached picture). The alarms were found in operating condition, but were turned off. The connection from the dosing tank to the sand filter could not be evaluated due to the inoperable pumps.
8. Surface sand filters appear to have a layer of black sludge on them (see attached picture). The sand appears to have been replaced over the past year. No discharge to or from the sand filters was observed during the inspection.
9. The final discharge pipe at the unnamed tributary to the Ashtabula River was not observed due to a lack of flow from the sand filters.
10. The plant is operated by Roger Osborn and Dustin of Lewis Wastewater Services 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 January 1, 2010 through February 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.

Station	Reporting Code	Parameter	Limit Type	Limit	Reported Value	Violation Date
001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3	30D Conc	3.0	7.28	1/1/2010
001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3	7D Conc	4.5	7.28	1/22/2010
001	80082	CBOD 5 day	30D Conc	10	12.	3/1/2010
001	80082	CBOD 5 day	30D Qty	0.379	.40878	3/1/2010
001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3	30D Conc	3.0	6.16	4/1/2010
001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3	30D Qty	0.114	.20285	4/1/2010
001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3	7D Conc	4.5	6.16	4/8/2010
001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3	7D Qty	0.170	.20285	4/8/2010

Ohio EPA notes that the above referenced ammonia nitrogen violations placed you in significant noncompliance, and Ohio EPA notified you of this via letter on August 11, 2010. To-date no response has been received. A written explanation as to why the above limit violations 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 Violations: Failure to Maintain Engineered Components: From examination of the clarifier and sand filter dosing tank and not operating due to inoperable or missing parts, causing the plant to discharge partially treated sewage to the receiving stream. It is unlikely that all these components became inoperable simultaneously. The clarifier effluent weirs, skimmer, and sand filter dosing pumps must be repaired or replaced as soon as possible. The partial plant bypass should be reported in the eDMR reports.

Comment

From examination of Ohio EPA's files, the operators of record are listed as Mark Lewis and Roger Osborn. The Operator of Record designation should be revised to reflect the addition of Dustin Lewis and the removal of Mark Lewis from the Operator of Record.

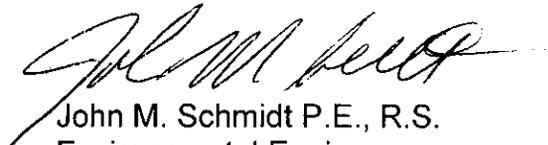
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Based upon the inspection findings and the overall compliance record of the facility, the Ridge View Estates is considered to be in noncompliance with the terms and conditions of its NPDES permit. I would like to reschedule a site visit when your operator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

Please inform this office, in writing, within 30 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. Please be advised that past or present issues of noncompliance can continue as subjects of future 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

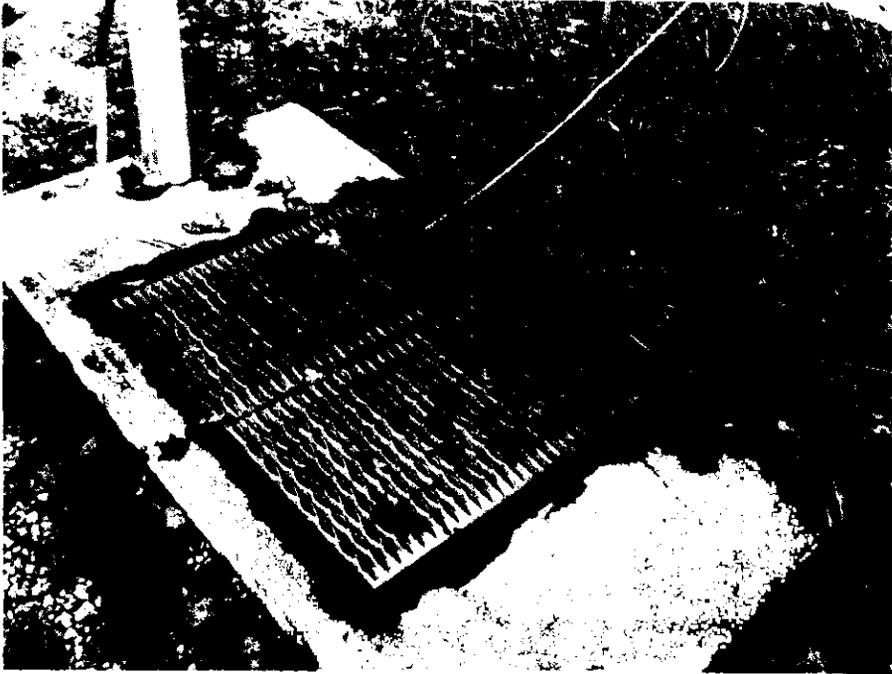
File: SP/Ashtabula/Geneva Twp./Ridge View Estates 3PW00034



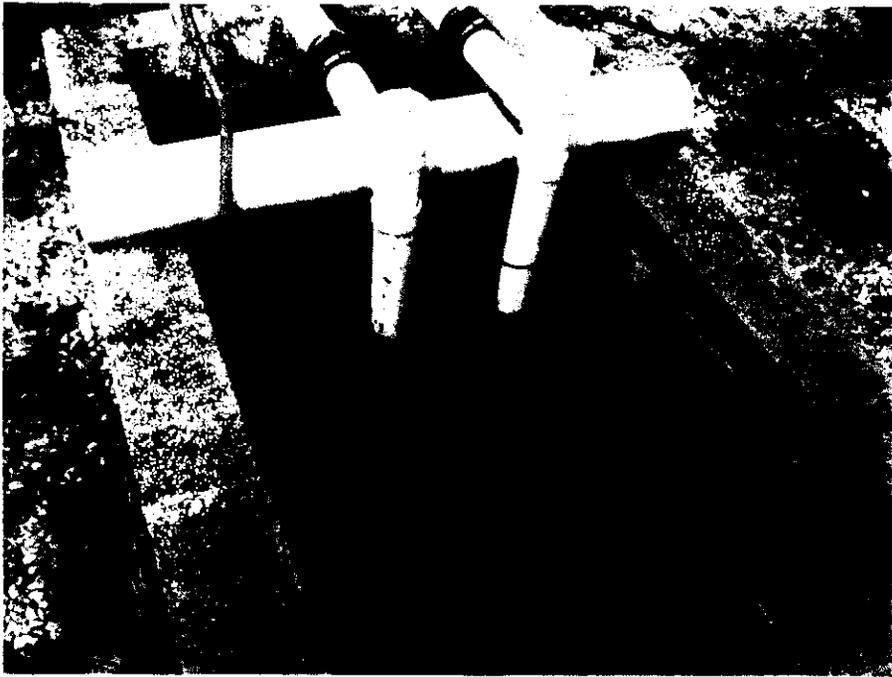
Trash Trap full of Debris



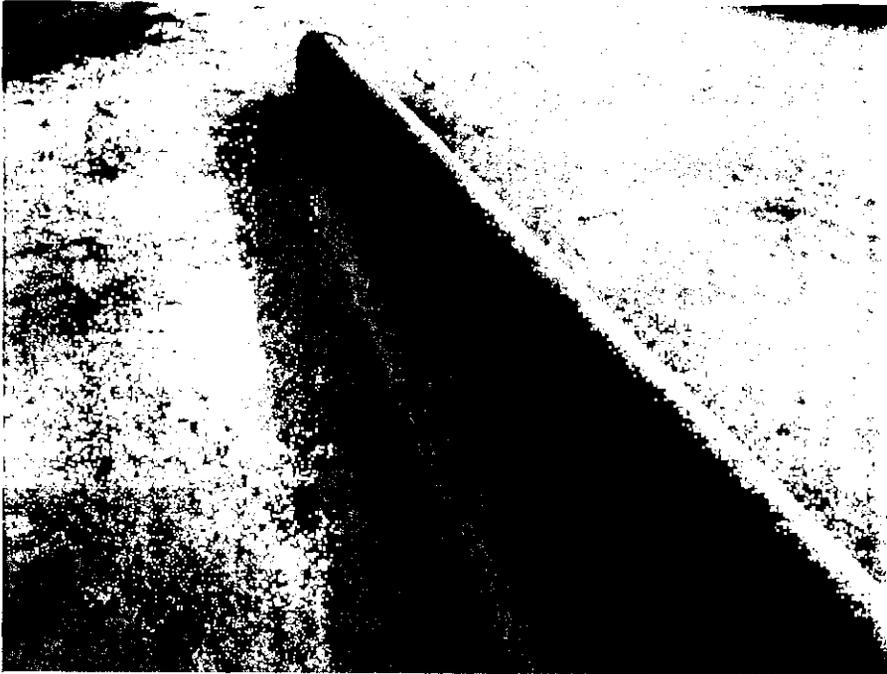
Clarifier with Missing or Submerged Weirs



Sand Filter Dosing Tank Flooding with Discharge to Creek



Clarifier Outlet / Sand Filter Dosing Tank



East Sand Filter with Layer of Black Sludge, No Water



West Sand Filter with Sludge, No Water



Removed Pumps