OhioEPA
State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Northeast District Office

2110 East Aurora Rd.
Twinsburg, Ohio 44087

TELE: (330) 963-1200 FAX: (330) 487-0769
www.epa.state.oh.us

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

January 8, 2009

RE: GRAND RIVER ACADEMY
PERMIT NO. 3PT00115
ASHTABULA COUNTY
AUSTINBURG TOWNSHIP

Mr. Randy Blum, Headmaster
Grand River Academy
3042 College Street
Austinburg, Ohio 44010

Dear Mr. Blum

On December 10, 2008, an inspection of the above referenced facility's wastewater treatment systems was conducted. The facility was represented by Mr. Joel Laughlin, Head of maintenance, and you. The purpose of the inspection was to evaluate the operation and maintenance of the treatment systems along with the facility's compliance status with respect to the terms and conditions of the above referenced National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

During the inspection, the following items were noted/discussed:

1. Mark Lewis, from Clean Stream Inc. is the current operator. Clean Stream is responsible for operating and overseeing the facility's two wastewater treatment systems along with electronically submitting the facility's monthly operating permit via Ohio EPA's Web-based application.
2. **West Treatment Plant:**
   a. The blowers were running and the plant was receiving good aeration.
   b. The contents of the aeration tank were medium brown in color and no foam was present. This is typical of a properly operating plant.
   c. Both the sludge return line and the skimmer return line were functioning properly.
   d. A thin layer of sludge was present on the surface sand filter bed. Mr. Laughlin, Head of Maintenance, indicated that the layer of sludge would be removed within a week. The sludge should be properly disposed at a licensed solid waste landfill.
   e. The weirs and the sidewalls in the settling tank were free of solids.
   f. The effluent was clear.
   g. Four homes and a new maintenance shop have recently been tied into the west plant.
3. **East Treatment Plant:**
   a. The blowers were running and the plant was receiving good aeration.

b. The contents of the aeration tank were medium brown in color.
c. Both the sludge return line and the skimmer return line were functioning properly. However the discharge from the sludge return line was clear. The discharge should be medium brown in color.
d. A thin layer of sludge was present on the surface sand filter bed.
e. The weirs in the settling tank had solids build-up. They should be scraped down.

4. **You indicated that Grand River Academy intends to abandon both treatment plants and connect them into the sanitary sewers by December 2010.**
5. The monthly operating reports for 2008 indicate that both plants have been in significant compliance with their permit limits for the year.

This office has recently reviewed your self-monitoring reports covering the period December 1, 2006 through November 30, 2008 for the referenced facility. Our review indicates violations of the terms and conditions of your NPDES permit. The specific instances of noncompliance are as follows:

Limit Violations (West Plant)

Station	Reporting Code	Parameter	Limit Type	Limit	Reported Value	Violation Date
001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3	30D Conc	3.0	35.98	12/1/2006
001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3	7D Conc	4.0	35.98	12/15/2006
001	00530	Total Suspended Solids	7D Qty	0.227	.2271	3/1/2007
001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3	30D Conc	3.0	50.96	3/1/2007
001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3	7D Conc	4.0	50.96	3/1/2007
001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3	1D Qty	0.076	.96442	3/1/2007
001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3	7D Qty	0.057	.96442	3/1/2007
001	00530	Total Suspended Solids	30D Conc	12	78.	6/1/2007
001	00530	Total Suspended Solids	7D Conc	18	78.	6/1/2007
001	00530	Total Suspended Solids	7D Qty	0.227	1.47615	6/1/2007
001	00530	Total Suspended Solids	1D Qty	0.341	1.47615	6/5/2007
001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3	30D Conc	1.0	1.12	8/1/2007
001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3	30D Conc	3.0	16.52	12/1/2007
001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3	7D Conc	4.0	19.04	12/8/2007
001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3	7D Qty	0.057	.36033	12/8/2007
001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3	1D Qty	0.076	.36033	12/11/2007
001	00400	pH	1D Conc	6.5	3.9	12/11/2007
001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3	7D Conc	4.0	14.	12/15/2007
001	00400	pH	1D Conc	6.5	4.3	12/18/2007
001	00400	pH	1D Conc	6.5	5.4	3/6/2008

Limit Violations (East Plant)

Station	Reporting Code	Parameter	Limit Type	Limit	Reported Value	Violation Date
002	00530	Total Suspended Solids	30D Conc	12	42.	12/1/2006
002	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3	30D Conc	3.0	4.48	12/1/2006
002	00530	Total Suspended Solids	7D Conc	18	42.	12/22/2006
002	00400	pH	1D Conc	6.5	5.5	12/28/2006
002	00400	pH	1D Conc	6.5	5.3	8/7/2007
002	00400	pH	1D Conc	6.5	4.7	12/11/2007

Should you have any comments or questions concerning this letter, please feel free to call me at (330) 963-1143.

Respectfully,

Michael W Stevens

Michael W. Stevens
Environmental Engineer
Division of Surface Water

MWS/mt

LEWIS WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT INC.
P.O. Box 136 • Madison, Ohio 44057
Phone (216) 695-1309 • Fax (440) 257-1462

February 14, 2007

RE: Ashtabula County
Austinburg
Grand River Academy
3042 College Street
3PT00115

Mr. Michael W Stevens.
Ohio EPA, N.E. District
2110 E. Aurora Road
Twinsburg, Ohio 44087-1924

Dear Mr. Stevens:

In response to your letter of January 29, 2007, the following comments are offered:

1. The west plant was recently seeded to enhance the plant operation.
2. Marlene Knopsnider, the licensed plant operator from Lewis Wastewater Management (LWM) meets with the designated maintenance representative from Grand River Academy (GRA) during the plant inspections to coordinate the operational management of each plant. In the future, a copy of the monthly operating reports (MOR) will be provided each month to Grand River Academy for their information.
3. Based on the limit violations identified in your letter, the primary violation is ammonia nitrogen. LWM will evaluate the causative factors and make a recommendation to GRA for the abatement of the limit violation for this parameter.

Please call me at your convenience if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Mark Lewis, P.E.

Cc: Randy Blum, Headmaster, Grand River Academy
Marlene Knopsnider, Lewis Wastewater Management