



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Northeast District Office

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Twinsburg, Ohio 44087

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

*File.
Semi.
Geauga
Hambden*

June 19, 2008

RE: GEAUGA COUNTY
HAMB DEN TOWNSHIP
MAPLE RIDGE MHP WWTP
NPDES #3PV00077*CD/OH0117129

*Maple Ridge
Big Creek
Properties*

CERTIFIED MAIL

Mr. Rick Summer, President
Big Creek Properties LLC
PO Box 1102
9661 South Brown Road
Chardon, OH 44024

Dear Mr. Summer:

I recently conducted a compliance evaluation inspection of the Maple Ridge Wastewater Treatment Plant, owned by your corporation and operated under NPDES Discharge permit #3PV00077*CD. On the plant inspection, I was accompanied by Josh Goodridge, your operator, and Brent Bosma, your on-site representative.

The plant was producing a clear, visually acceptable quality effluent during the inspection, and the creek was clear. The plant comprises a trash trap, aeration tank, clarifiers, dosing tank, slow surface sand filters, tablet chlorinator, and tablet dechlorinator. The dosing tank was inoperable.

The sand filter walls have deteriorated a significant amount so that they may collapse, and they may not control the wastewater as it undergoes final treatment processes. These walls should be replaced, and some portions may be properly abandoned. The trash trap shows evidence of storm water flowing over and into it. It appears that other portions of the plant may also be subject to flooding. This flooding is not permitted, and it degrades treatment of the wastewater. This wastewater treatment system is subject to significant impacts on treatment efficiency from daily flow variations, and this plant needs a flow equalization tank to smooth the flow rate over a 24-hour period. The plant components, particularly tanks can be an attractive nuisance and a safety hazard for people in the area. To protect from serious accidents, a secured fence is needed around the plant.

When I tested the pumps that dose the sand filters, I was drenched with untreated wastewater by a failed pipe connection to the pump as a geyser of raw sewage spewed up through the grates. When I tested the other dosing pump, the pipe to the sand filters showed a large leak near the dosing tank. These leaks are an unpermitted discharge of polluted water, and they should be corrected immediately.

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The many shortcomings at your wastewater treatment plant suggest that your early attention to operation and maintenance and necessary capital improvements is necessary.

A review of monthly operating reports from January 2007 through June 2008, an 18-month period, revealed that reports for three entire months are not received as required, and the effluent had eleven violations of permitted discharge limits. Additionally, 41 effluent measurements were not reported as required. These violations of your discharge reporting justify enforcement action. Tables of violations are attached.

Capital improvements to this wastewater treatment plant are clearly needed, and they are required in your currently active permit in Part C, enclosed for your information and action. You are delinquent in accomplishing the compliance schedule required in your permit. This failure to comply with required actions is also subject to enforcement action by the Director, Ohio EPA under Ohio Revised Code, section 6111.

Please respond to this letter in writing by July 11, 2008, describing corrective actions and the schedule you intend to accomplish in order to bring your wastewater treatment plant into compliance with your NPDES Permit #3PV00077*CD.

Contact me directly at (330) 963-1260 or at Doug.Hiestand@epa.state.oh.us to discuss any comments or questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,



Douglas Hiestand
Environmental Engineer
Division of Surface Water

DH/mt

enc: Table of violations
Part C, NPDES #3PV00077*CD

cc: Josh Goodridge, B & J Environmental
Helen Hayes, Geauga County Health Department