

**Environmental  
Protection Agency**

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

May 10, 2011

RE: PRAIRIE HOUSE APARTMENTS  
NPDES PERMIT NO. 3PW00035  
RIPLEY TOWNSHIP, HOLMES COUNTY  
COMPLIANCE INSPECTION EVALUATION

Mr. Chris Steiner  
P.O. Box 312  
Shreve, OH 44676

Dear Mr. Steiner:

On May 9, 2010, a site inspection was conducted at the above referenced facility at 13219 State Route 226, Ripley Township/Big Prairies Village, Holmes County. The inspection was conducted by John Schmidt of this office, and Kraig Bucklew represented the Holmes County Health Department. The purpose of the inspection is 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 in conjunction with the renewal of said permit. The last compliance inspection was conducted on May 11, 2010.

The collection system consists of a gravity sewer system located north of the waste water treatment plant (WWTP). The treatment system consists of a trash trap, extended aeration system, clarification, surface sand filtration, and chlorine disinfection. Sludge management of sludge removal from the extended aeration tanks when needed to another POTW. The facility discharges to Odell Lake adjacent to the south side of the facility. No backup power is provided to the facility, and the facility is provided with no alarms.

**Observations**

Following are observations made during the inspection.

1. The design flow of the extended aeration plant is 3,000 gallons per day. The extended aeration plant operates on a timer, with the sand filter operating on a float system in the dosing tank. The plant was not discharging at the time of the inspection.
2. Ohio EPA records reflect that Kevin Dean is the operator of record for this facility.
3. Log books and the operation and maintenance manual are maintained at the site and were available for inspection.

4. The overall condition of the treatment plant during this inspection was fair.
5. Collected trash was containerized for disposal at a solid waste landfill.
6. The content of the aeration tank had a medium to light brown color and good mixing. Sludge returns were noted as nearly clear, indicating that sludge in the clarifier needs to be directed to the bottom by scraping the clarifier sides. The plant appears biologically under-loaded. Moss was growing on the return sludge line (see pictures). The tank should be inspected weekly and leaf litter and accumulated vegetation removed. The blower was cycled and found in operating condition. The alarms were tested and found in operating condition.
7. As noted in the May 11, 2010 inspection, the system depends on a single blower to provide air to the aeration tank. The Prairie House Apts. should have a plan in place in the event the single blower fails. It is recommended that plant improvements to submit as a part of your compliance schedule include a second blower as a backup to the blower already in place.
8. The surface of the clarifier has some sludge floating in it (see pictures). Effluent channels and weirs appear to not have been cleaned in some time, and should be scrubbed down weekly (see pictures). The sludge return lines were cycled and found operating properly at the time of the inspection. The skimmer was activated and found in operable condition at the time of the inspection.
9. The surface sand filter pump discharges to the filters when enough water accumulates to pump. The pumps were tested and Pump No. 1 was found operable, but Pump No. 2 was not operable and was turned off. The alarms were tested and found in operating condition.
10. Surface sand filters were in fair condition. The filters appeared raked, level and reasonably clean, but it appears that some sludge has been mixed in with the filter media. The wastewater percolates freely through the sand indicating that the beds are not clogged.
11. Chlorination and dechlorination systems were examined and found stocked with the appropriate chemicals. The tank contents were reasonably clean.
12. The final discharge to Odell Lake was observed as not discharging.
13. Samples are collected by Dean's Backflow Service. Dean's Backflow Service personnel perform on-site analysis of pH and DO and perform observations of

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flow, color, odor, and turbidity on days they are at the plant. Nobody collects required daily observations of flow, color, odor, and turbidity on days when Dean's Backflow Service is not at the plant.

14. Cosh Laboratories provides the sample bottles and preservatives and performs laboratory analysis of collected samples.

15. Kevin Dean submits the data to Ohio EPA's electronic discharge monitoring report (e-DMR) system on behalf of Chris Steiner, owner of the Prairie House Apartments through Ohio EPA's Web-based application.

**NPDES Permit Compliance Review**

Prairie House Apartments operates its WWTP under NPDES Permit 3PW00035. A review of the electronic discharge self-monitoring reports (eDMRs) received by Ohio EPA for the period May 1, 2010 through April 1, 2011 indicates apparent noncompliance of the terms and conditions of your NPDES permit as identified below:

**Limit Violations**

The following limit violations were noted for the reporting period reviewed:

Station	Reporting Code	Parameter	Limit Type	Limit	Reported Value	Violation Date
001	00530	Total Suspended Solids	30D Conc	12	30.	6/1/2010
001	00530	Total Suspended Solids	7D Conc	18	30.	6/15/2010

Ohio EPA files reflect no response to these violations as required by your NPDES permit. A written explanation as to why these violations occurred, along with measures to ensure that they are not repeated, must be provided to Ohio EPA.

**Reporting Violations**

No reporting violations were noted for the reporting period reviewed.

**Compliance Schedule Violations**

Based upon a review of Ohio EPA's files, the following is a compliance schedule summary as specified by your permit:

Permit Effective Date	Permit Expiration Date	Schedule Due Date	Completion Date	Event Code	Schedule Type	Schedule Milestone
10/01/2010	09/30/2015	07/01/2011	Not Completed	95999	Other	E Coli Status Report
10/01/2010	09/30/2015	08/01/2011	Not Completed	-----	Other	E Coli PTI if needed
10/01/2010	09/30/2015	09/01/2011	Not Completed	95999	Other	E Coli Status Report
10/01/2010	09/30/2015	10/01/2011	Not Completed	05699	Other	Attain Effluent Limits

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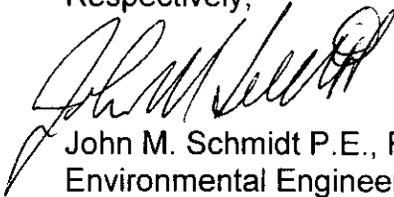
As all milestones have not yet passed, no response is required at this time.

Based on the above information, Prairie House Apartments is considered to be in substantial compliance with the terms and conditions of the NPDES permit. However, 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 that have been or will be taken to correct the above noncompliance or explanations if you believe the noncompliance issues noted are in error. A single response should address both the May 11, 2010, June 16, 2010, and May 9, 2011 inspections. 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 inspection, 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: Kevin Dean, Dean's Backflow Service

File: SP/Holmes/Ripley Twp/Prairie House Apartments (3PW00035)



**Return Sludge Line with Accumulated Vegetation and Clear RAS Discharge**



**Clarifier with Sludge and Dirty Weirs and Effluent Channels**