

**Environmental
Protection Agency**

Ted Strickland, Governor
Lee Fisher, Lt. Governor
Chris Korleski, Director

August 5, 2010

RE: GEAUGA COUNTY
NEWBURY TWP.
RICCA PLAZA
11394 KINSMAN ROAD
COMPLIANCE EVALUATION INSPECTION
OHIO EPA NO. 3PR00296

Mr. Ronald P. Ricca
Ricca Plaza
11400 Music Street
Newbury, OH 44065

CERTIFIED MAIL

Dear Mr. Ricca:

On July 7, 2010, a Compliance Evaluation Inspection (CEI) was conducted at the wastewater treatment plant serving Ricca Plaza. The plaza contains Judy's Place restaurant, a pet salon, a Laundromat, a muffler center, and TLC Auto Service.

According to our files, a Permit to Install (PTI) was issued by Ohio EPA on March 20, 1991 for an upgrade to the 6000 gallon extended aeration plant serving the plaza. That upgrade consisted of a 500 gallon trash trap and a 500 gallon grease trap in the restaurant outlet line. All flow from the shopping center was to be diverted to a 1000 gallon flow equalization tank, used to minimize hydraulic overloading of the system, caused by peak periods of Laundromat use. A flow control box routes excess flow to the flow equalization tank, and all other flow to the existing 6000 gallon extended aeration plant. The existing dosing chamber was equipped with dual submersible pumps. Also installed were a 486 square foot surface sand filter, 1000 gallon aeration sludge holding tank, and a 470 gallon chlorine contact tank. Point of discharge is to a storm drain which flows to a tributary of the Chagrin River.

According to the Professional Engineer's report per the 1991 improvements, the treatment system was designed for a maximum hydraulic flow of 3125 gallons per day. This basis of design corresponded with the letter from your design engineer stating that there would be a 35 seat restaurant, 15 plaza employees, and a 4 machine laundry facility.

During the recent inspection, the hydraulic flow coming into the plant appeared **excessive**, and the equalization tank was full. There was a huge amount of white foam (probably soap suds) in both the flow equalization tank and the aeration tank. The wastewater treatment plant had a chemical type odor, rather than the typical musty odor. One side of the surface sand filter needed solids raked from it. It appeared that the chlorine contact tank was being aerated (loudly) and there was a sump pump inside the tank.

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The wastewater treatment system cannot function properly being hydraulically stressed with low nutrient wastewater generated from the laundry. The number of laundry machines must be reduced to four based on the sewage system approval.

Review of the Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) from August 2008 to August 2010 revealed the following numeric effluent violations:

| Permit No | Station | Parameter | Limit Type | Limit | Reported Value | Violation Date |
|-------------|---------|-----------|------------|-------|----------------|----------------|
| 3PR00296*BD | 001 | pH | 1D Conc | 9.0 | 9.1 | 1/27/2009 |

By August 23, 2010, please provide this office answers to the following questions and steps taken to eliminate the following deficiencies:

1. Please explain, in detail, the tenants utilizing the plaza (i.e. number of employees, number of restaurant seats, number of laundry machines, day-to-day operations of the pet salon, chemicals used in the pet salon, possible floor drains in the auto service center).
2. Please explain how the average daily flow being discharged from the plant is determined.
3. Please give us a date as to when the Laundromat will be reduced to four machines total.
4. Please have your Certified Wastewater Operator complete the attached Operator of Record Notification Form and return it to this office.

Once this office receives your response to the above items, you and your certified operator will be contacted for a follow-up inspection. If you have any questions, please contact me at (330) 963-1151.

Sincerely,



Jennifer S. Bennage
Environmental Engineer
Division of Surface Water

JSB/mt

Enclosure

cc: Geauga County Health Department

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- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
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1. Article Addressed to:

Ronald P Ricca
 Ricca Plaza
 11400 Music Street
 Newbury OH 44065

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X *[Handwritten Signature]*

- Agent
 Addressee

B. Received by (Printed Name)

Ronald P. Ricca

C. Date of Delivery

8/7/10

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