



**Environmental
Protection Agency**

Timothy J. White, Governor
John E. R. L. Governor
Dennis M. DeWine, Director

May 18, 2010

RE: GEAUGA COUNTY
CLARIDON
CLARIDON MINI MART
NPDES# 3PR00502*AD

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Mr. Ken Ashba
Claridon Mini Mart & BP
14745 Mayfield Road, P.O. Box 421
E. Claridon, Ohio 44033

Dear Mr. Ashba:

On May 12, 2010, this writer conducted an inspection of the sewage treatment plant serving the above referenced facility. The intent of the inspection was to assess the operations and maintenance of the treatment system and notify you of NPDES permit violations.

NPDES PERMIT COMPLIANCE

The permit compliance review indicates you have failed to conduct the required monitoring for three months during the length of the active permit. Recent discharge monitoring reports (DMR) indicates the only parameter submitted in recent DMRs is for total suspended solids. According to the DMR data, the other parameters required to be monitored in accordance with the NPDES permit have not been submitted. This is a violation of your NPDES permit and subject to enforcement actions pursuant Ohio Revised Code Chapter 6111. You must respond in writing by June 21, 2010 explaining corrective actions taken to correct this deficiency and avoid recurrence.

The wastewater treatment plant is currently classified by the Ohio EPA as a Class A wastewater treatment facility. This classification is located in the NPDES permit which had an effective date of September 1, 2009. As such, the facility is required to obtain the services of a Class A state certified operator. Please notify this office by June 21, 2010 regarding the status of a certified operator for your wastewater treatment plant.

New operator and plant certification rules have gone in effect and are found in OAC 3745-7-04. The new regulations provide the plant classification rankings and operator staffing requirements. The minimum staffing requirements for a Class A facility is 2 days per week for a minimum of 1 hour per week. Please be aware, the owner has an opportunity to obtain a Class A license and operate the system. More information on obtaining the Class A license can be found at <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/opcert/opcert.aspx>.

INSPECTION SUMMARY

Below are the findings and recommendations from the inspection:

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The aeration tank appeared to be provided with adequate aeration. One blower is present at the facility and was in operation at the time of the inspection. The contents of the aeration portion of the plant appeared to be a dark brown gray color. The settling chamber had solids accumulating on the surface of the tank. In addition, solids were noted accumulating on the settling chamber sidewalls and effluent weir. The surfaces of the clarifier must be scraped down to remove the solids accumulating on the sidewalls. Scraping the sidewalls of the settling chamber ensures the proper return of solids to the aeration chamber and prevents solids from building up in the dosing chamber and passing through to the sand filter and potentially clogging the underdrains.

Please note, the aeration chamber is where 90% of treatment is routinely accomplished. It is important to maintain a balanced solids load in the system in order to achieve a more effective treatment system. Enclosed is a copy of an operation and maintenance manual created to guide owners of package extended aeration treatment plants. Please read this manual so you have a better understanding of how these plants are operated and maintained.

This facility hauls solids offsite for further treatment/handling. At the time of the inspection, it was not certain what hauler is used and where the solids are hauled. This information must be obtained and forwarded to this office as soon as possible. According to your NPDES permit, you are only permitted to haul solids to another NPDES permitted facility. You are currently not permitted to land apply solids to fields. Therefore, if the hauler you are currently using land applies your solids, you must cease this activity immediately as this is a violation of your NPDES permit and subject to enforcement action by this office.

The dosing station contains two pumps which dose the surface sand filters. At the time of the inspection, the dosing chamber appeared to be in good condition. The sand filters contained sand that was in good condition. Both filter beds were clean with only minor vegetation present on both beds.

The chlorination/dechlorination was inspected and checked for the presence of chlorination and dechlorination tablets. The grating to the tank was sealed to the concrete tank and therefore this office could not check for the chlorination/dechlorination tablets. Please be aware, your NPDES permit contains chlorine and fecal limits which requires you to chlorinate (and subsequently dechlorinate) from May through October each year. Please notify this office by June 21, 2010 whether chlorination and dechlorination tablets have been added to the wastewater treatment plant. The final effluent is to a culvert located on Mayfield Road. The wastewater treatment plant was producing what appeared to be a satisfactory quality effluent.

SUMMARY

In summary, the following items must be completed within the required deadline:

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- 1) Submit written response by June 21, 2010 summarizing the corrective actions taken to correct the non submittal of the DMR and reporting deficiencies for parameters in the NPDES permit. The letter must also address how the facility will avoid recurrence of this issue.
- 2) The facility must notify this office regarding obtaining the services of a Class A certified operator by June 21, 2010.
- 3) Notify this office by June 21, 2010 regarding the addition of chlorination and dechlorination tablets.

Failure to complete any of the above noted items may result in this matter being referred to our legal section for an enforcement action. Should you have any comments or questions regarding this letter, please contact this office at (330) 963-1299.

Respectfully,



Laura A. Weber, P.E.
Environmental Engineer
Division of Surface Water

LAW/mt

pc: Geauga County Health Department