



Environmental  
Protection Agency

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

January 18, 2011

RE: GOSPEL HAVEN MENNONITE CHURCH  
OHIO EPA PERMIT 3PR00493  
SALT CREEK TWP., HOLMES COUNTY  
COMPLIANCE EVALUATION INSPECTION

Mr. Leroy Keim, Trustee  
Gospel Haven Mennonite Church  
6871 Ste Route 241  
Millersburg, OH 44654

Dear Mr. Keim:

On January 12, 2011, a site inspection was conducted at the above referenced facility at 6871 State Route 241, Salt Creek Township, Holmes County. The inspection was conducted by John Schmidt of this office and Kraig Bucklew of the Holmes County Health Department. Nobody was available from Gospel Haven Mennonite Church and School during the inspection. The purpose of the inspection was 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. The last compliance inspection was conducted on January 13, 2010.

The system consists of a 500 gallon trash trap, 1,000 gallon aerated equalization basin, 2,000 gallon extended aeration system with clarifier, dosing chamber, 152 SF surface sand filtration, chlorine disinfection, dechlorination and final effluent sampling manhole. Sludge management consists of sludge removal from the extended aeration system when needed to another POTW. The facility discharges to an unnamed tributary to Martins Creek located southwest of the facility. The facility has no backup power, but has alarms.

### **Observations**

The following observations were made during the inspection.

1. The design flow of the extended aeration plant is 2,000 gallons per day. The extended aeration plant operates intermittently 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. The influent pumps were cycled and found in operating condition. The alarm was found in operating condition.
3. The content of the aeration tank had a slight musty odor, light brown color, a a significant amount of foaming with good mixing. The blowers were running and the plant was receiving sufficient aeration. The plant color, foaming, and aeration are indicators that the plant is organically under loaded and/or may have an excessive phosphorus loading. The church should inventory the cleaners used at this facility to ascertain if excessive phosphorus is being added to the wastewater. A chocolate brown color is more typical of a properly operating aeration system.

4. The surface of the clarifier was frozen and not discharging. Effluent channels and weirs were in good condition. The sludge return lines were operating properly at the time of the inspection. The skimmer was operable at the time of the inspection.
5. The dosing station pumps were cycled and were not found in operable condition (see attached pictures). A sump pump was installed and was not operating at the time of the inspection.
6. The condition of the surface sand filters is unknown due to the inoperable dosing pumps. Sand filters were snow covered (see attached pictures).
7. Chlorination and dechlorination systems were not examined, as the inspection was conducted outside of the disinfection season.
8. No discharge to the irrigation pond was observed due to the lack of flow.
9. Ohio EPA understands that Dave Schlabach performs operations and maintenance, monitors the facility, performs routine sampling, and reports data for this facility on the electronic discharge monitoring report (eDMR) system.

**NPDES Permit Compliance Review**

The Gospel Haven Mennonite Church operates under Permit 3PR00493\*AD. A review of the electronic discharge self-monitoring reports (eDMRs) received by Ohio EPA for the period January 1, 2010 through January 1, 2011 indicates the following 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	21.	3/1/2010
001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia NH3	30D Conc	3.0	5.3	3/1/2010
001	00530	Total Suspended Solids	7D Conc	18	21.	3/15/2010
001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia NH3	7D Conc	4.5	5.3	3/15/2010
001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia NH3	30D Conc	1.0	7.36	6/1/2010
001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia NH3	30D Qty	0.0076	.0195	6/1/2010
001	31616	Fecal Coliform	30D Conc	1000	13100.	6/1/2010
001	80082	CBOD 5 day	30D Conc	10	13.	6/1/2010
001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia NH3	7D Conc	1.5	7.36	6/15/2010
001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia NH3	7D Qty	0.011	.0195	6/15/2010
001	31616	Fecal Coliform	7D Conc	2000	13100.	6/15/2010

These effluent limit violations should be explained, along with specific measures to ensure that they are not repeated.

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#### Reporting Violations

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

Station	Reporting Code	Parameter	Limit Type	Limit	Reported Value	Violation Date
001	00056	Flow Rate			AD	3/6/2010
001	00056	Flow Rate			AD	3/7/2010
001	00056	Flow Rate			AD	3/13/2010
001	00056	Flow Rate			AD	3/14/2010
001	00056	Flow Rate			AD	3/20/2010
001	00056	Flow Rate			AD	3/21/2010
001	00056	Flow Rate			AD	3/27/2010
001	00056	Flow Rate			AD	3/28/2010

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

Station	Reporting Code	Parameter	Sample Frequency	Expected	Reported	Violation Date
001	00530	Total Suspended Solids	1/Quarter	1	0	08/01/2010
001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3)	1/Quarter	1	0	08/01/2010
001	31616	Fecal Coliform	1/Quarter	1	0	08/01/2010
001	80082	CBOD 5 day	1/Quarter	1	0	08/01/2010

These reporting frequency violations should be explained, along with specific measures to ensure that they are not repeated.

If you feel some of Ohio EPA's reporting records are in error, you may wish to reenter this information through the eDMR system or mail your data to Ohio EPA DSW central office and request that the data be entered on your behalf. Ohio EPA's eDMR support staff may also be available to assist you in this matter. Emailing questions to [James.Roberts@epa.state.oh.us](mailto:James.Roberts@epa.state.oh.us) is the quickest way to get a response if you have a specific question with the eDMR program or how to make corrections to what is reported in the eDMR program.

#### Compliance Schedule Violations

No compliance schedule violations were noted for the reporting period reviewed. Plant improvements referenced in the NPDES permit were constructed on September 22, 2008.

Based on the above information, the Gospel Haven Mennonite Church and School is considered to be in substantial compliance with the terms and conditions of its NPDES permit. However, the above items must be addressed. **The Holmes County Health department will be following up with you concerning the operation of your sand filter dosing pumps.**

**Please inform this office, in writing, within 30 days of the date of this letter as to the actions we discussed that have been or will be taken to correct the above noncompliance or explanations if you believe the noncompliance issues noted are in error. Your**

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**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,

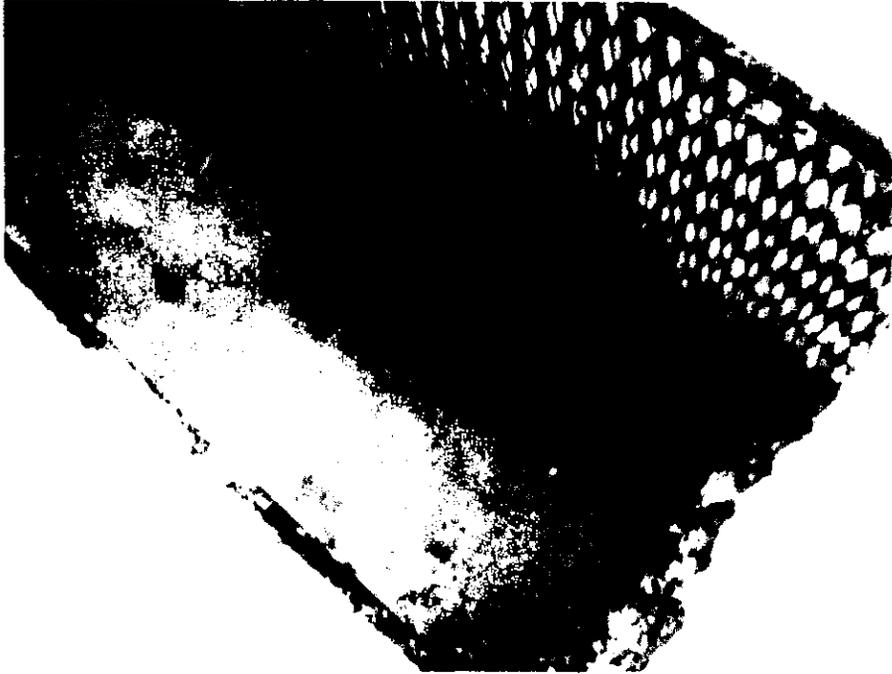


John M. Schmidt P.E., R.S.  
Environmental Engineer  
Division of Surface Water

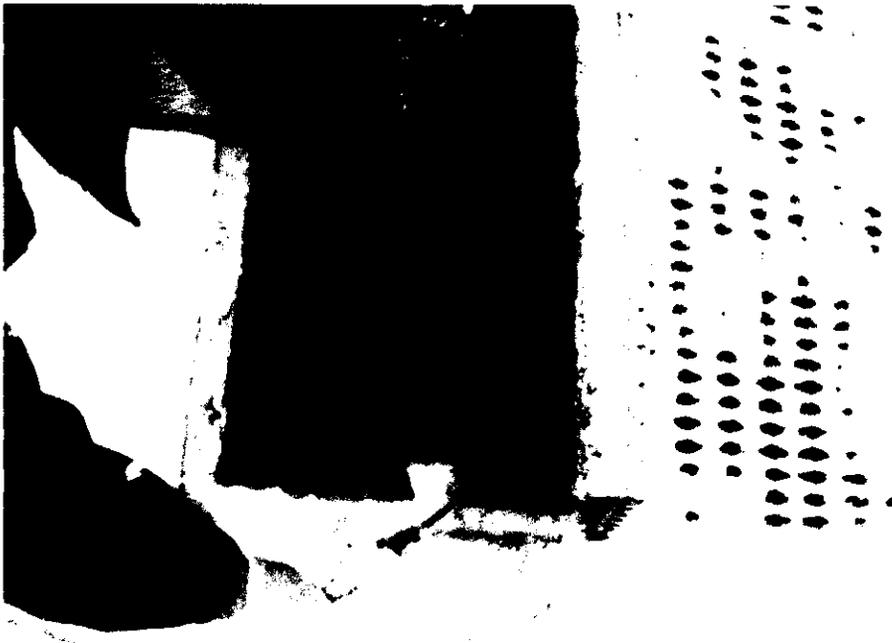
JMS/mt

pc: Kraig Bucklew, Holmes County Health Department  
Dave Schlabach, c/o Gospel Haven Mennonite Church

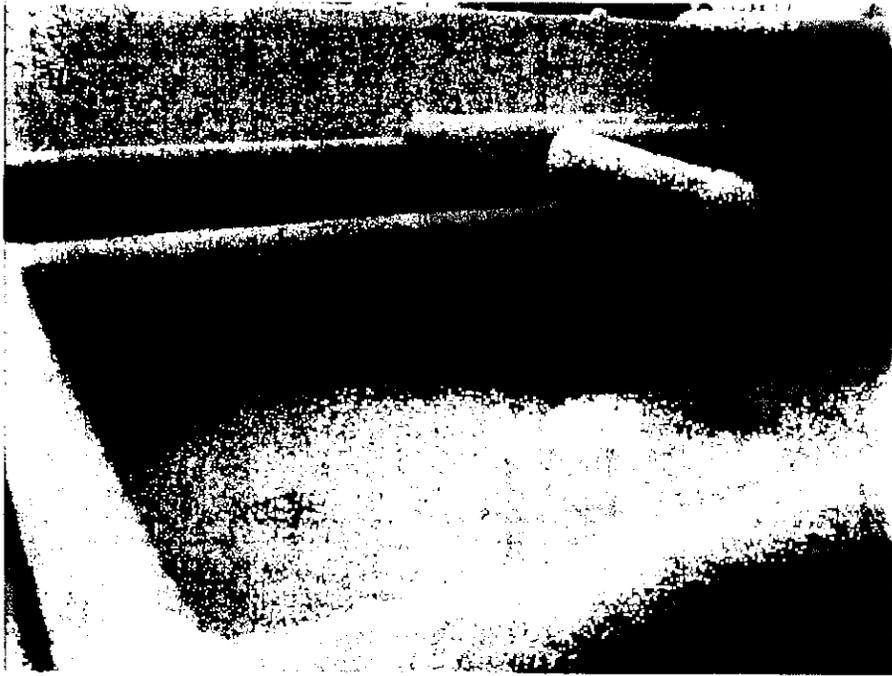
File: Semipublic/Homes Co/Salt Creek Twp/Gospel Haven Mennonite Church



**Aeration System with Significant Foaming**



**Sand Filter Dosing Tank with Temporary Sump Line**



**Frozen Surface Sand Filter**



**Final sampling Vault / Manhole**