



**Environmental  
Protection Agency**

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

June 23, 2010

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 June 16, 2010, a follow up 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 was to follow up on a May 11, 2010 inspection and 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, chlorine disinfection and dechlorination. Sludge management consists 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 plant operates on a timer, with sand filters operating on dosing cycle based upon flow to the dosing chamber. The log book was missing from the facility.
2. The plant is operated by Kevin Dean on behalf of Chris Steiner. Mr. Dean collects samples, performs laboratory analyses, and electronically submits the data to the electronic discharge monitoring report (eDMR) system.
3. The content of the aeration tank had a good color and mixing, an improvement over the May 11, 2010 inspection. Sludge returns were a medium brown color

Mr. Chris Steiner  
Prairie House Apartments  
June 23, 2010  
Page 2

with slight foaming. The surface of the clarifier was clear, and the skimmer appeared to be operating as designed. Effluent channels were reasonably clean, also an improvement over the May 11, 2010 inspection.

4. 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.
5. The filter dosing system continues to be unsatisfactory, unchanged from the May 11, 2010 inspection. Both pumps were set to the "off" position (see attached picture). Neither Ohio EPA nor the Holmes County Health department could get the dosing system to operate. The dosing system must be inspected and repaired so that both dosing pumps are operational and able to be automatically alternated. Alternating the pumps can extend the useful life of the pumps and reduce the cost to maintain the pumps. As noted in the June 15, 2010 letter referencing the May 11, 2010 inspection, both pumps must be made operational no later than July 16, 2010.
6. The splitter box for the sand filters is in need of replacement. This has been noted in inspections conducted in 2008, 2009, and 2010. The box has deteriorated so much that there were holes observed in the walls of the box (see attached picture). The splitter box must be replaced no later than July 16, 2010. Surface sand filters appeared clean and operable, recently raked and free of debris.
7. The chlorination and dechlorination systems were stocked with chemicals and appear to operate properly, however no flow was observed due to the inability to get the sand filter dosing pumps to operate.

#### **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 June 1, 2009 through June 1, 2010 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:

Mr. Chris Steiner  
 Prairie House Apartments  
 June 23, 2010  
 Page 3

Reporting Period	Station	Reporting Code	Parameter	Limit Type	Limit	Reported Value	Violation Date
December 2009	001	00300	Dissolved Oxygen	1D Conc	6.0	5.13	12/1/2009

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. E-mailing 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.

**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
09/01/2005	08/31/2010	01/01/2006	Not Completed	01299	PTI & Plans	Submit Detail Plans
09/01/2005	08/31/2010	04/01/2006	Not Completed	03099	Construction	Commence Construction
09/01/2005	08/31/2010	09/01/2006	Not Completed	04599	Construction	Complete Construction
09/01/2005	08/31/2010	09/01/2006	Completed	05599	Operations	Attain Effluent Limits

As all milestones were not attained by the dates specified in your permit, you are in violation of the compliance schedule. Note that noncompliance of your NPDES compliance schedule has been referenced in letters dated August 28, 2006 and June 18, 2007.

**NPDES Permit Renewal Status**

Ohio EPA is in receipt of your NPDES renewal application for the above referenced facility and is processing the application. Ohio EPA identifies the following with the NPDES Permit Application:

1. Form 2E, Section IV: This section has been left blank with the specific data referencing number of measurements. This information should be obtained from the e-DMR documentation and completed, as this is the responsibility of the applicant.

Mr. Chris Steiner  
Prairie House Apartments  
June 23, 2010  
Page 4

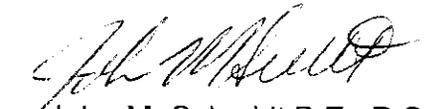
2. Form 2S Section 1: The section has a lot of blanks left in it, including the listing of all treatment used. Sludge appears to be collected in the bottom of the extended aeration tank, and is not provided with a sludge holding tank. The maximum allowable sludge accumulation in the extended aeration tank should be provided. All questions should be answered completely. If sludge has not been removed from the facility in the past year, the date of last sludge removal should be provided.

Based on the above information, Prairie House Apartments is considered to be in marginal 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 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. A single response should address both the May 11, 2010 and June 16, 2010 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.**

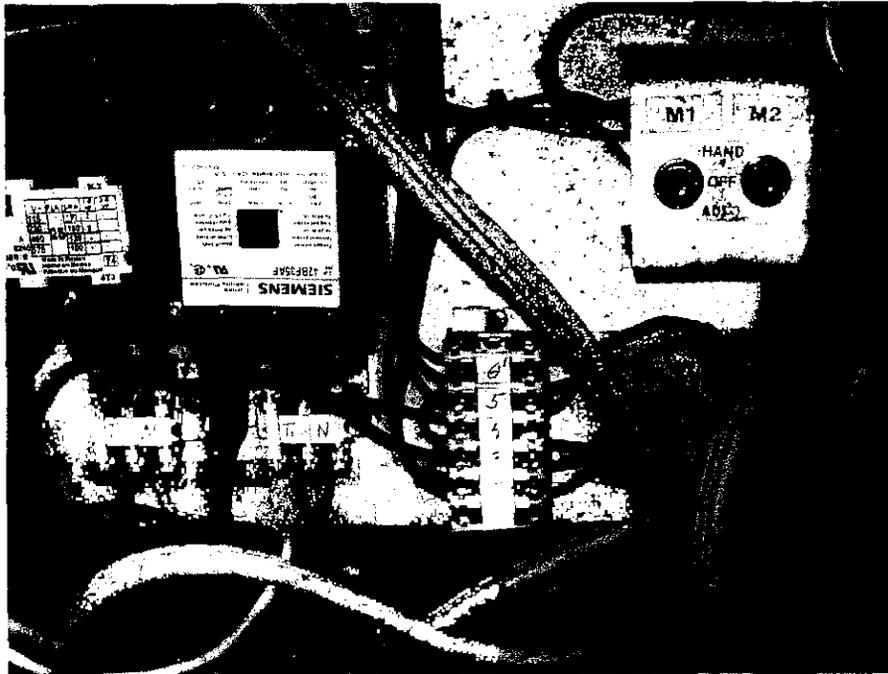
If you have any questions or comments regarding this inspection, please feel free to contact me at (330) 963-1175.

Respectively,

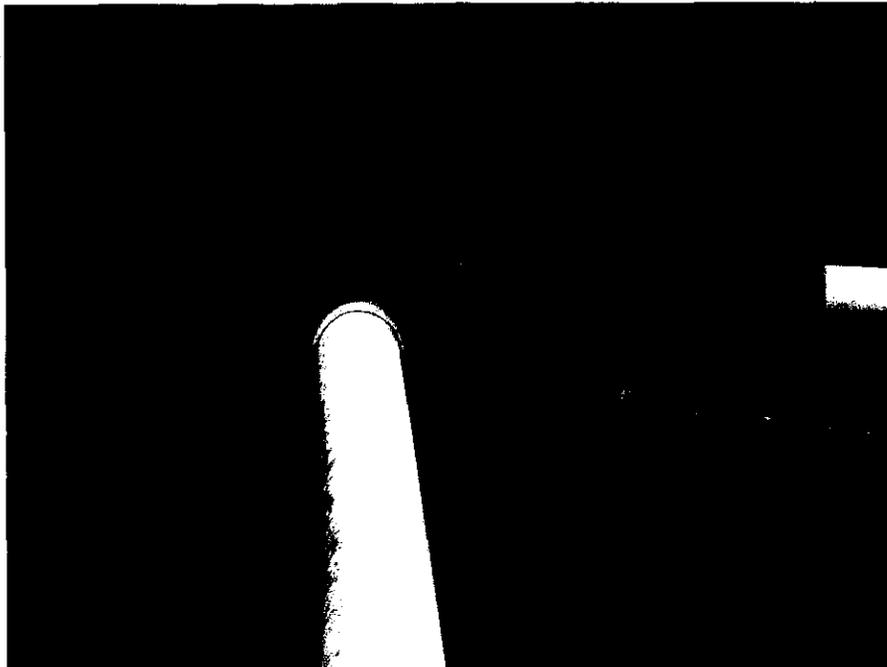
  
John M. Schmidt P.E., R.S.  
Environmental Engineer  
Division of Surface Water

JMS/mt

File: SP Prairie House Apartments (Ripley Twp, Holmes Co.)



Electrical Box Showing Dosing Pumps Off



Deteriorated Sand Filter Dosing Box