



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Northwest District Office

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Ted Strickland, Governor
Lee Fisher, Lieutenant Governor
Chris Korleski, Director

Re: Richland County
Village of Plymouth WWTP
NPDES Permit

December 22, 2008

Keith A. Hebble, Mayor
Village of Plymouth
48 West Broadway
Plymouth, Ohio 44865

Dear Mr. Hebble,

On December 10, 2008, an inspection was made of the Village of Plymouth wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). Mr. Bill Sexton, Village Administrator, was present during the inspection. A visual inspection was made of the effluent structure and discharge at the river. The effluent had a green color that could be noticed in the river for several yards downstream. No effluent samples were collected during the inspection.

A review of the discharge monitoring reports submitted to our office for August through October 2008 revealed several *violations* of the ammonia limits contained in your National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Our office remains extremely concerned with the number of violations occurring at the treatment lagoons. Your NPDES permit contains a compliance schedule to construct upgrades at the WWTP. The Village remains in *violation* of several of the milestone completion dates contained in the permit.

During the inspection we toured the main sewage pumping station located on S.R. 61. The Village has attempted on three separate occasions to have a new ultrasonic flow meter installed. The condition of the forcemain piping is apparently preventing the meter from working correctly. It has been decided that a portion of the old piping will need to be replaced with a new section in order to allow the flow meter to function. This work should be completed as soon as possible. Please keep our office up to date on the progress of the project.

During the inspection the sanitary sewer smoke testing was also discussed. Mr. Sexton indicated that smoke testing of a portion of the sewers was completed in early November. Please keep our office informed of any clean water connections that are removed from the system via identification through smoke testing.

We discussed the need for the Village to eliminate the two sanitary sewer overflows near the Broadway and Beelman Street pumping stations. The Village should track when the high water alarm is activated at the pump stations. This will act as a gauge as to when the overflows have potentially activated, since there is no direct way to monitor the overflow structures. The Village shall keep a log of when the high water alarm activates. At these times, the overflow should be observed to determine if indeed an overflow is occurring.

Mr. Keith Hebble
December 22, 2008
Page Two

This activity should also be included in the log. Any overflows from the sanitary sewer shall be reported under outfall 300 in your NPDES permit.

Prior to the inspection a meeting was held with yourself, Mr. Sexton, members of council, Mike Atherine of Poggemeyer Design Group, Roberta Acosta of RCAP, and members of our Division of Environmental Financial Assistance (DEFA). It was agreed at the meeting that the Village would be submitting a Permit to Install (PTI) application for wastewater plant upgrades in April 2009. The Village is still aiming for construction of plant upgrades to begin by the end of 2009.

If you have any questions please call me at 419-373-3070.

Sincerely,



Walter Ariss
Environmental Specialist II
Division of Surface Water

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~~DSWENWDO~~

Bill Sexton, Administrator, Village of Plymouth
Mike Atherine, P.E., Poggemeyer Design Group
Valentine Mbah, DEFA-CO