



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Northeast District Office

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

September 3, 2008

RE: MAHONING COUNTY  
BERLIN TOWNSHIP  
NPDES PERMIT NO 3PR00437

Mr. John Klinessmith  
NEO Church of God Campgrounds  
16278 Shilling Rd.  
Berlin Center, OH 44401

Mr. Klinessmith:

On August 11, 2008, this writer conducted an unannounced inspection of the wastewater treatment system for the NEO Church of God Campground. The purpose of the inspection was to evaluate the condition of the system and the receiving stream. A review of the monitoring reports submitted each month by the campground was also reviewed for compliance with the NPDES Permit.

The current treatment system consists of a septic tank, slow surface sand filters, and disinfection. The condition of the septic tank was satisfactory. The filters had a significant amount of weeds growing in them. The weeds must be removed to prevent the root systems from allowing short circuiting of the wastewater through the sand media.

The water in the small receiving stream was clear. No treatment plant sludge was apparent in the stream.

The compliance record for the wastewater treatment system was reviewed as part of this inspection. The record of review was the Monthly Operating Reports submitted each month by the campground. The period of review was November 2007 through July 2008. The following violations of the NPDES Permit No. 3PR00437 have been identified in the Ohio EPA compliance tracking system.

Parameter	Limit Type	Limit	Reported Value	Violation Date
Fecal Coliform	30-Day Avg.	1000	2000	May 2008
Fecal Coliform	1-Day Max.	2000	20,000	June 1, 2008
Fecal Coliform	30-Day Avg.	1000	20,000	June 2008

As discussed in the inspection report last year, the disinfection tablets must be checked each day to make sure sufficient chemical tablets are available to disinfect the wastewater.

A comparison of the monitoring data to the final limits of the NPDES Permit shows that the existing treatment system will be unable to consistently comply with the final limit for ammonia and dissolved oxygen when they becomes effective on February 1, 2010. The NPDES Permit contains a schedule for upgrading the wastewater treatment system. The schedule includes interim deadlines that enable a phased approach to the upgrades. The first deadline was August 1, 2008 when detailed plans for the plant upgrade were to be submitted to this office. To date, this office has not received the detailed plans. Be advised that failure to comply with the permit compliance schedule is a violation of Ohio Revised Code (R.C.) 6111.07 and is subject to enforcement action.

MR. JOHN KLINESMITH  
NEO CHURCH OF GOD CAMPGROUNDS  
SEPTEMBER 3, 2008  
PAGE 2

Recent conversations between you and this writer indicated that connecting to the Mahoning County sanitary sewers may be an option for the campground. My discussions with Mr. Joe Warino, Mahoning County Sanitary Engineer, confirmed the opportunity to connect to the sanitary sewer surrounding Lake Milton. You committed to contacting the sanitary engineer's office to determine the details of such a project. As we discussed, you were to then reply back to this office with the final plan for the wastewater treatment system. To date, this office has not received an update. The Northeast Ohio Church of God campground must contact this office with a final plan and immediately begin returning to compliance with the NPDES Permit compliance schedule.

You may contact this office at (330) 963-1251 to discuss any questions you may have.

Respectfully,



John Kwolek  
District Engineer  
Division of Surface Water

JW/mh

cc. Joe Mansky, Mahoning County Department of Health  
John Hallas, Mahoning County Department of Health  
Joe Warino, Mahoning County Sanitary Engineer