

**Environmental
Protection Agency**

1615 State Avenue, Governor
Robert Taft, Lt. Governor
Columbus, Ohio, Director

February 3, 2010

RE: LORAIN COUNTY
CARLISLE TOWNSHIP
BUTTERNUT RIDGE APARTMENTS
(38973 BUTTERNUT RIDGE RD.)
(PERMIT NO. 3PW00033)

CERTIFIED MAIL

Mr. James Dixon
455 Canterbury Rd.
Bay Village, OH 44140

Dear Mr. Dixon:

On February 2, 2010, a compliance inspection was conducted on the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) serving the Butternut Ridge Apartments, located at 38973 Butternut Ridge Road, Carlisle Township, Lorain County. The purpose of the inspection was to meet with the new property manager; to evaluate the WWTP's operation and maintenance condition; and to evaluate the facility's compliance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit effluent limits. The last compliance inspection of the Butternut Ridge Apartments complex was conducted on July 29, 2008.

Present for the meeting and WWTP inspection were Shannon, new property manager for JED Investments; Mr. John Sabo, of the Lorain County Health Department; and this writer, of the Ohio EPA.

At the time of the February 2nd inspection, the following observations were made:

- 1) The trash trap contents contained a thick mat of solids.
- 2) The aeration tank was not being aerated, and the tank contents were dark gray in color and odorous. The return sludge line was not operational as well.
- 3) The blowers/motors and housing were checked for the presence of a timer, in an attempt to determine why the WWTP was not working. The timer was found, but the blowers/motors still did not function when manually put into the 'ON' positions. It was noted that all circuit breakers in the electrical circuit panel were in the untripped (functional) position.
- 4) Contents of the settling tank were dark gray, septic, and odorous. The effluent trough leaving the settling tank was full of solids and leaves.

Mr. James Dixon
Butternut Ridge Apartments
February 3, 2010
Page 2

- 5) The pump station pumps were set to automatic mode, and were not operational when tested in the manual mode. The high level alarm light also did not operate when tested.
- 6) The east cell of the surface sand filters was completely ponded with water and frozen. The west cell was free of ponded water but was snow covered.
- 7) The chlorination / dechlorination tank tubes contained no tablets. However, it is noted that effluent disinfection is not required between November 1st and April 30th.

A SWIMS computer search for the operating data for the Butternut Ridge Apartments wastewater treatment plant (submittal as required by NPDES permit to be reported to Ohio EPA) was conducted prior to the inspection. The electronic Discharge Monitoring Report (eDMR) data search covered the period of July 1, 2007, through January 1, 2010. **Results of the search found no such data was ever submitted to Ohio EPA for the Butternut Ridge Apartments WWTP.**

Please be advised that your NPDES permit requires effluent sampling and analysis reporting for the discharge of wastewater to waters of the State. Failure to submit these results is a violation of your NPDES permit to discharge. Such NPDES permit violations are subject to enforcement action pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Chapter 6111.

It is also noted that your NPDES Permit (3PW00033*AD) expired on February 28, 2009, and an NPDES Permit renewal application was submitted to this Agency on October 15, 2008. However, since there has been no monthly operating data submitted, renewal of the NPDES Permit cannot be completed until eDMR data submittal commences. All terms and conditions of the previous NPDES Permit remain effective until a new permit can be issued.

A brief summary of how the WWTP is supposed to work was discussed with Shannon, including what components should be operating, how they should look and smell, and what parameters should be tested for and how often. The requirement for effluent sampling, and submittal of monthly operating reports to the Ohio EPA, was also stressed.

It was indicated by Shannon that she would inform those in charge, of the immediate need to make the WWTP operational. She also indicated she would pursue obtaining a maintenance person or company for continued operation and maintenance of the WWTP. Mr. Sabo said according to Lorain County Health Department files, Mack Industries has performed maintenance on the WWTP in the recent past.

Mr. James Dixon
Butternut Ridge Apartments
February 3, 2010
Page 3

Issues which need to be addressed at the WWTP include the following:

- Make the blowers/motors to the aeration tank operational and kept operational.
- Check the trash trap and pump if necessary.
- Clean the solids out the effluent trough and scrape down the sides of the settling tank.
- Check operation of the pumps in the sand filter dosing station, and repair if necessary.
- Drain water from the surface sand filters and make them operational.
- Collect treated effluent samples from the WWTP per the required schedule in the NPDES Permit, and report analytical results to the Ohio EPA.

Please inform this office in writing, within 7 days of the receipt of this correspondence, as to the reasons why the required monitoring and reporting is not being conducted. **Failure to respond to this requirement in a timely manner may be cause to escalate enforcement action by this Agency.**

If there are questions or comments regarding the contents of this letter, please contact this office.

Respectfully,

Charles E. Allen
Environmental Engineer
Division of Surface Water

CEA/mt

cc: John Sabo, Lorain County Health Department
James Dixon, Butternut Ridge Apartments