



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Northeast District Office

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

January 15, 2008

RE: LORAIN COUNTY RESOURCE
RECOVERY COMPLEX
PERMIT NO: 3PR00394
LORAIN COUNTY

Mr. Dan Schoewe
Operations Supervisor
Lorain County Resource Recovery Complex
43650 Oberlin-Elyria Road
Oberlin, OH 44074

Dear Mr. Schoewe

On January 10, 2008, an inspection of the above referenced facility's wastewater treatment system was conducted. The facility was represented by you. The purpose of the inspection was to evaluate the operation and maintenance of the treatment plant along with the facility's compliance status with respect to the terms and conditions of the above-referenced National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

During the inspection, the following items were noted/discussed:

1. The facility employs approximately 39 employees.
2. The blowers were running and the plant was receiving good aeration.
3. The contents of the aeration tank were medium brown in color and no foam was present. This is typical of a well run plant.
4. Both the skimmer and sludge return lines were functioning properly. The sludge return line discharge was also medium brown in color.
5. The surface sand filter beds had vegetation in them. See Figure 1. This vegetation should be removed and properly disposed. Also, the splash pad should be leveled so that the effluent discharged into the surface sand filter beds will be evenly distributed. Currently only half of the sand filter bed is being utilized.
6. Scum build-up was present behind the baffle in the settling tank. The scum should be removed and properly disposed.
7. The discharge to the evaporation pond was visually clear and appeared to be having no impact.
8. Mr. Rich Heier, Environmental Compliance Assistant, from the adjacent Lorain County II Landfill collects the samples.
9. Lab analysis is performed by Northcoast Environmental.
10. Mr. Heir is responsible for submitting monthly operating reports. The reports are submitted via hard copy due to problems encountered with Ohio EPA's Surface Water Information Management System (SWIMS). Mr. Heir was informed that a Web based application for submitting the monthly operating report would be available in the near future. Hyperlinks are available below which provide information on this topic along with training dates.
11. An ammonia value of 482 mg/l was reported in June 2007. Mr. Heir informed me that this was in error. The correct value was 0.80 mg/l. In order to remove the erroneous value/violation from SWIMS, a corrected hard copy needs to be submitted.

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This office has recently reviewed your self-monitoring reports covering the period February 1, 2007, through October 31, 2007, for the referenced facility. Our review indicates violations of the terms and conditions of your NPDES permit. The specific instances of noncompliance are as follows:

Limit Violations

Station	Reporting Code	Parameter	Limit Type	Limit	Reported Value	Violation Date
601	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3)	30D Conc	3.0	4.1	3/1/2007
601	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3)	30D Conc	1.0	482.	6/1/2007
601	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3)	30D Qty	0.030	2.10167	6/1/2007
601	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3)	7D Conc	1.5	482.	6/15/2007
601	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3)	7D Qty	0.045	2.10167	6/15/2007

Please note that Ohio EPA will be converting from the existing **SWIMware** software to a Web-based reporting system, **e-DMR**, sometime in 2008. The new reporting system will be entirely Web based and accessible via any Internet connection. Ohio EPA Form 4500, commonly known as MORs, will now be called Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs or e-DMRs). User training is going to be available in early 2008. Please consult the following Web site for updates regarding the specific date:

<http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/swims/eDMR/eDMRtraining.html>

If you need additional information pertaining to the SWIMware replacement e-DMR, click the link below:

<http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/swims/eDMR/eDMR.html>

Should you have any comments or questions concerning this letter, please feel free to call me at (330) 963-1143.

Respectfully,



Michael W. Stevens
Environmental Engineer
Division of Surface Water

MWS/mt

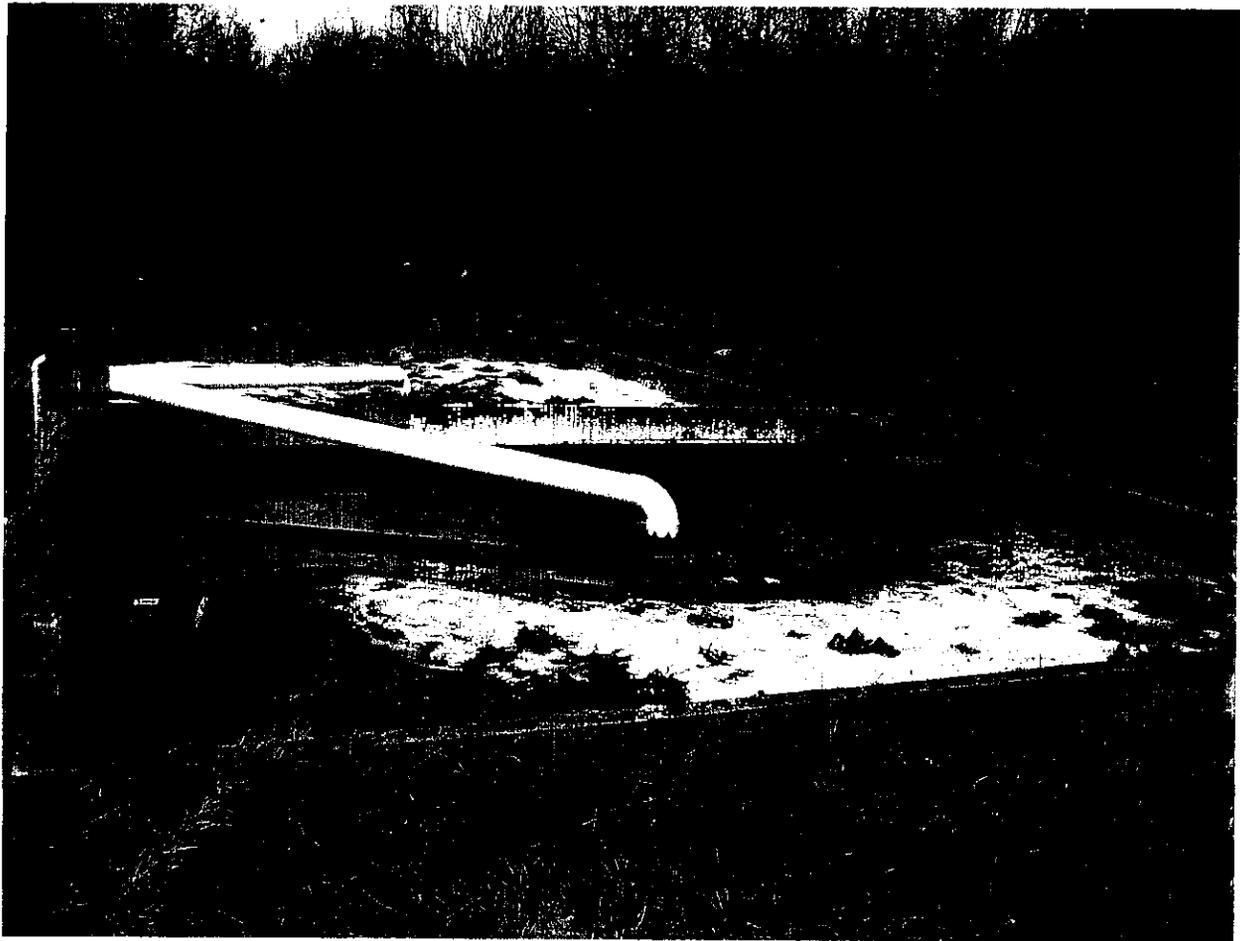


Figure 1