



**Environmental
Protection Agency**

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

April 30, 2010

RE: MAHONING COUNTY
SEMI-PUBLIC
PONDEROSA PARK
NPDES PERMIT NO 3PS00012

Mr. Bruce Howell
Ponderosa Park Resort
9362 Salem-Warren Road
Salem, OH 44460

Mr. Howell:

On April 28, 2010, this writer met with you to conduct an unannounced inspection of the wastewater treatment system for the Ponderosa Park Resort campground. The intent of the inspection was to evaluate the current condition of the treatment plant and to discuss any additional items that may need to be addressed. The bottom drain for the Dunn Eden dam was also discussed relative to the October 18, 2005 Director's Final Findings and Orders (DFFOs) issued to Ponderosa Park. Also representing the Ponderosa Park Resort was Mr. Jim Beery.

Issues remaining from the previous inspection were discussed during this most recent inspection. They are as follows.

1. The north treatment train was abandoned in 2003 when the tanks lifted out of the ground. The tanks were reset and the flow of wastewater previously reconnected into the north train. However, the north train has no mechanicals such as blowers to properly treat the wastewater. As a result, the wastewater flowed into the equalization tank and then was diverted into the south train. Since neither the pumps nor the blower associated with the equalization tank are operational, the wastewater in the equalization tank became septic. During the previous inspection, we agreed that the wastewater would be reconnected to the south system and that the equalization tank would be drained of the septic wastewater. At the time of the inspection, this procedure was completed.
2. During the last inspection, it was agreed that a second blower would be purchased and kept on site in the event the existing blower for the south train fails. At the time of this inspection, it was indicated by you and Jim that a second blower was available. However, upon further inspection, it was determined that the blower was not operational. A new blower must be purchased and on-site, ready for use prior to opening May 15th of this year. Because no second blower

is currently available, this action remains outstanding.

3. An attempt was made to inspect the lake drain. However, because of the water flowing over the dam, the underdrain could not be inspected. Jim stated that an inflatable plug was placed in the underdrain pipe when no flow was occurring over the dam, and that when the pipe is accessible, the pipe will be plugged with hydraulic cement. Please notify this writer when the pipe is permanently plugged with the cement. In the interim, this action remains outstanding. Once the pipe is permanently plugged, the system will be inspected during the hot, dry part of the summer to determine if impacts on Meander Creek have been eliminated.

Observations

Additional observations made during this most recent inspection are as follows.

1. The condition of the treatment plant was unsatisfactory at the time of the inspection.
2. The aeration tank had good color and mixing.
3. The content of the clarifier was cloudy at the time of the inspection. The effluent trough had sludge residue at the bottom of the trough and the weir plates had algae attached to the notches. The trough and the weir plates should be immediately cleaned and then maintained on at least a weekly basis. The trough should not have sludge at the bottom and the weir plate should be kept clean and free of any residues.
4. The upflow clarifier is in need of cleaning. Floating scum on the surface of the clarifier and algae growth on the media was apparent. The effluent trough was also in need of cleaning. As discussed, the weir trough will first be power washed to remove sludge from the trough and around the notched weir. Then the clarifier will be drained, the media power washed and any sludge that has accumulated in the bottom of the clarifier will be removed. This must be completed prior to opening May 15, 2010. The weir trough and plate in the clarifier at the end of the aeration tank should be cleaned prior to cleaning the upflow clarifier.
5. The sump pumps used to drain the upflow clarifier were operational at the time of the inspection. When activated, it was determined that they transfer wastewater from the clarifier to the sludge drying beds. However, it was determined that the

transfer pipe to the south filter was not complete. As a result, wastewater was being pumped onto the ground. As discussed, the pipe must be repaired if the drying beds are used to drain the upflow clarifier. One other option is to transfer the contents of the upflow clarifier to the head of the aeration tank. This should be discussed with Lance Willard to ensure that the aeration tank is not upset.

6. The dosing pumps for the slow sand filter were operational at the time of the inspection. However, the transfer pipes were broken and in need of repair. When the pumps were activated, wastewater sprayed back into the wet well as a result of the broken transfer lines. The transfer pipes must be repaired prior to opening May 15, 2010.
7. The slow surface sand filters were satisfactory. The southeast and southwest filters were clean and the sand leveled. A few weeds were apparent and must be removed in both filters. The northeast and northwest filters need to be taken off-line and rested prior to cleaning. The two filters must be cleaned by the end of June and put on stand-by.
8. The splitter box for the slow surface sand filters was inspected. It was discussed that the splitter box is divided into two sections with a permanent wall. One section feeds the southeast and southwest filters and the other half feeds the other two filters. The problem noted was that each pump feeds into only one of the box sections such that one pump can deliver wastewater to the south section and one pump can deliver wastewater into the north section. Both pumps could not deliver wastewater to either box section. The transfer lines from the dosing pumps to the splitter box must be modified so that both pumps can deliver wastewater to either box section. This must be completed prior to the end of June 2010.
9. The office lift station currently is inoperable. When the wet well was inspected, it was found to be full of raw sewage. The transfer lines for both pumps are in need of repair. Only one pump was found to be operable. The pump station must be properly repaired and maintained to its original condition of having dual operating pumps. It was indicated by you that a company has already been contacted to evaluate the needed repairs. The repairs to the office lift station must be completed by the end of May 2010.
10. The main lift station near the pool was inspected for operations. Both pumps were operable. Two issues need to be addressed. The bulb in the alarm light needs to be replaced and new lift chains attached to the pumps need to be installed. The lift chains enable the pumps to be pulled even when the wet well is

Mr. Bruce Howell
Ponderosa Park Resort
April 30, 2010
Page 4

full of sewage. The repairs should be completed by the end of June 2010.

11. During the inspection, a pump station referred to as the south lift station was inspected with Jim. It was unclear whether the lift station was still integrated into the collection system. Jim agreed to evaluate the station to determine its status and provide an update to this office by June 15, 2010. The lift station must be properly secured. The wet well was full of water and has security other than a wooden structure that partially covers the pit. The system must be immediately secured before an accident occurs.
12. The area around the wastewater treatment plant has been disturbed in the past for resetting the tanks. The soil has not been properly graded, and/or seeded and mulched. The area immediately around the tanks needs to be graded and either seeded and mulched, or covered with plastic and gravel. The other areas, like the slope to the north of the aerations tanks, need to be re-graded and seeded and mulched to prevent further erosion.

Compliance Review

A review was made of the monthly compliance record for Ponderosa Park. The review period covered November 2009 when the last review was done for the previous inspection, through the most recent data for March 2010. Ponderosa Park reported no discharge during the review period.

Operator of Record

Ohio Administrative Code 3745-7-02 (A)(2) and Item A of Part II of the NPDES Permit requires Ponderosa Park to designate one or more operator of record to oversee the technical operation of the treatment works, sewerage system, or each wastewater treatment facility. Each operator of record shall have a valid certification of a class equal to or greater than the classification of the treatment works, sewerage system, or wastewater treatment facility. It is understood that Lance Willard is the certified operator overseeing operations of the treatment system. Mr. Willard has a Class IV certification and clearly meets the Class I certification for the plant. However, Ponderosa Park must register Mr. Willard with Ohio EPA as the designated Operator of Record. The attached form must be completed and returned to Ohio EPA at the address on the form. The completed form must be submitted as soon as possible; but no later than May 15, 2010.

In addition, monthly eDMR reports may only be submitted by the designated Operator of Record, the owner of the property or the owners designated representative per Codified

Mr. Bruce Howell
Ponderosa Park Resort
April 30, 2010
Page 5

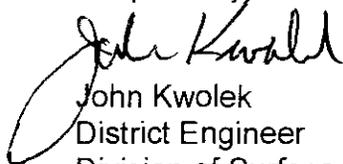
Federal Regulation, Title 40, Part 122.22. A PIN number is necessary to submit the monthly data electronically to Ohio EPA. Mr. Willard could submit the analytical data using his PIN number. Any designated representative other than Mr. Willard would have to acquire a PIN number from Ohio EPA per Part III, Item 4. The submission of future monthly reports by individual other than the certified operator or the legally designated officer of Ponderosa Park is a violation of Part III, Item 28 of the NPDES Permit.

Response Requested

This office requests a response to this inspection report explaining action that will be taken to address all of the concerns and requirements noted above. The response must include an explanation of actions that will be taken and a commitment to accomplish those actions according to the dates identified above. The response should be submitted to this office no later than May 15, 2010.

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

Respectfully,



John Kwolek
District Engineer
Division of Surface Water

JK/mt

cc. John Hallas, Sanitarian, Mahoning County Department Of Health
Joe Mansky, Mahoning County Department of Health
Mark Mann, DSW/Enforcement