



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Northeast District Office

2110 East Aurora Rd.
Twinsburg, Ohio 44087

TELE: (330) 963-1200 FAX: (330) 487-0769
www.epa.state.oh.us

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

January 28, 2009

RE: MEDINA COUNTY
HINCKLEY TOWNSHIP
HINCKLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
WWTP INSPECTION
(NPDES NO. 3PT00114)

CERTIFIED MAIL

School Superintendent
Highland Board of Education
3880 Ridge Road
Medina, OH 44256

Dear Superintendent:

On January 21, 2009, a Compliance Evaluation Inspection (CEI) was conducted on the Hinckley Elementary School wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). Present during the inspection were Mr. Gary Loomis, representing the school system, and this writer.

The purpose of the visit was to evaluate the Operation and Maintenance of the WWTP, and to evaluate the facility's compliance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit effluent limits. The previous CEI was conducted on January 17, 2008.

At the time of the January 21st inspection the following items were observed at the WWTP:

- 1) The flow equalization tank was in use and was being aerated. Blowers for the flow equalization tank are on a timer.
- 2) Contents of the aeration tank were watery medium brown, with no foam present. The return activated sludge (RAS) line was operating, returning lighter brown water. Blowers for the aeration tank are operated on a timer.
- 3) The settling tank was in use, and contents of the settling tank were clear and non turbid. The skimmer was operational and was properly adjusted. The effluent trough was clean and free of solids.
- 4) The west cell of the surface sand filter was in use, and the sand was level, free of solids, and free of snow and ice. The sand in the east filter cell was clean, level, and snow covered. Use of the filter cells is alternated monthly.

School Superintendent
 Hinckley Elementary School
 January 28, 2009
 Page 2

- 6) Effluent from the WWTP is disinfected using Ultra Violet disinfection. However, the UV unit was not in use at the time of the inspection, as the disinfection season is from May 1st through October 31st of each year.
- 8) Effluent from the WWTP was clear, and was visibly free of solids and foam.

During the period January 1, 2008, through January 1, 2009, the Hinckley Elementary School WWTP reported the following NPDES permit effluent violations in their monthly electronic discharge monitoring reports (eDMRs):

**HINCKLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
 NPDES Permit No. 3PT00114
 NPDES Numeric Effluent Limit Violations
 (Jan.1, 2008 – Jan. 1, 2009)**

| Reporting Period | Parameter | Limit Type | Limit | Reported Value | Violation Date |
|------------------|---------------------------|------------|-------|----------------|----------------|
| January 2008 | Total Suspended Solids | 30D Conc | 12 | 13. | 1/1/2008 |
| January 2008 | Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3-N) | 30D Conc | 3.0 | 3.5 | 1/1/2008 |
| January 2008 | Total Suspended Solids | 7D Conc | 18 | 23. | 1/15/2008 |
| February 2008 | Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3-N) | 30D Conc | 3.0 | 9.5 | 2/1/2008 |
| February 2008 | Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3-N) | 7D Conc | 4.5 | 9.5 | 2/1/2008 |
| February 2008 | Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3-N) | 30D Qty | 0.11 | .17979 | 2/1/2008 |
| February 2008 | Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3-N) | 7D Qty | 0.17 | .17979 | 2/1/2008 |

Items discussed with Mr. Loomis during the inspection were the following:

- 1) Solids concentrations in the aeration tank are very low. Results of a 30 minute settling test on the aeration tank contents revealed a settled concentration of approximately 5% solids. This percentage of solids is well below the desired suspended solids concentration in the aeration tank (typically 30% to 70%), and is definitely making it more difficult for Mr. Loomis to operate the WWTP.

The low solids concentration is due to a low organic loading being discharged to the WWTP from the school, but Mr. Loomis is working on getting the best effluent from the WWTP, given the quality of the influent.

- 2) Samples for analysis are collected by Mr. Loomis. Testing for temperature, pH, and Dissolved Oxygen is done on site. Testing for CBOD, suspended solids, ammonia, and fecal coliform is conducted by the Lodi WWTP

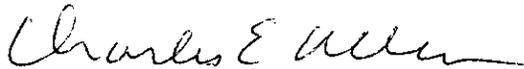
School Superintendent
Hinckley Elementary School
January 28, 2009
Page 3

- 3) New gratings have been installed on the aeration tanks, and the openings are covered during the winter months in an attempt to prevent as much heat loss from the tank contents as possible.
- 4) Since the last inspection the NPDES permit has been renewed. Mr. Loomis requested a copy of the new NPDES permit, of which one is enclosed with this correspondence.

Current operation and maintenance practices which are enabling the WWTP to consistently meet its NPDES Permit effluent limits should be continued.

If you have any comments or questions about this document, you may contact me at (330) 963-1110.

Respectfully,



Charles E. Allen
Environmental Engineer
Division of Surface Water

CEA/mt

File: SP/Medina/HinckleyTwp/HinckleyElementarySchool

U.S. Postal Service
CERTIFIED MAIL RECEIPT
(Domestic Mail Only; No Insurance Coverage Provided)

For delivery information visit our website at www.usps.com

7007 26A0 0002 2986 5240

| | | |
|---|----|------------------|
| Postage | \$ | Postmark Here |
| Certified Fee | | |
| Return Receipt Fee (Endorsement Required) | | |
| Restricted Delivery Fee (Endorsement Required) | | |
| Total Postage & Fees | \$ | |

Sent To

Street, Apt. No.,
or PO Box No.

City, State, ZIP+4