



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Northeast District Office

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Twinsburg, Ohio 44087

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

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

April 17, 2009

RE: Lorain County
Beaver Creek Watershed
Amherst Twp.
Municipal Storm Water Program –
Notification of Possible Illicit Discharge

Mr. Dennis Abraham, Trustee
Amherst Township
7530 Oberlin Road
Elyria, OH 44035

Mr. Ronald Schmitz, Mayor
Village of South Amherst
103 West Main Street
South Amherst, OH 44001

Dear Mr. Abraham and Mayor Schmitz:

On April 15, 2009, Ohio EPA received a complaint regarding suds and foam in Beaver Creek. The suds and foam were observed near the City of Amherst wastewater treatment plant. As a result of the complaint, the City of Amherst conducted an investigation and determined that the wastewater treatment plant was not the source of the illicit discharge to Beaver Creek. Further, a screening of outfalls from the City's municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) revealed that the source was not an illicit discharge from their MS4. Their observations indicate that the source of the discharge was located upstream of the City's municipal boundaries and that the likely location of the discharge was either in Amherst Township or the Village of South Amherst.

In compliance with Part III.B.3.a of the Ohio EPA General Storm Water National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for Small MS4s, Ron Merthe of the City of Amherst Utility Department notified John Szefcyk, Road Superintendent with Amherst Township, and the Lorain County Engineer of the possible illicit discharge. This letter will serve to notify the Village of South Amherst of this possible illicit discharge. Further, this letter will serve as notice to Amherst Township and the Village of South Amherst to conduct an illicit discharge investigation per the obligations of Part III.B.3 of the NPDES permits for your MS4s.

Please determine if the source of foam and suds in Beaver Creek is an illicit discharge from either of your MS4s. If so, please provide me with a report indicating what the source is and the actions taken to eliminate it. This report should be sent to me **no later than May 15, 2008**. If the source of illicit discharge cannot be eliminated by this

Mr. Dennis Abraham
Mr. Ronald Schmitz
Notification of Possible Illicit Discharge
April 17, 2009
Page 2

date, your response should provide a plan with timetables to eliminate the discharge. If your investigation reveals that the suds and foam in Beaver Creek are not from a source subject to the illicit discharge provisions of your MS4 program, please indicate the reasons for this conclusion and the person or agencies to which this matter has been referred for follow-up.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (330) 963-1145.

Sincerely,



Dan Bogoevski
District Engineer
Division of Surface Water

DB/mt

cc: John Szefczyk, Road Superintendent, Amherst Twp.
Bill Holtzman, Lorain County Engineers Office
Jim Body, Lorain County Health Department