



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Northeast District Office

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Twinsburg, Ohio 44087

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

August 22, 2007

RE: WAYNE COUNTY  
CHESTER TWP  
NORTHWESTERN LOCAL SCHOOLS  
7571 N. ELYRIA ROAD

Mr. Jeff Layton, Superintendent  
Northwestern Local Schools  
7571 N. Elyria Road  
West Salem, OH 44287

Dear Mr. Layton:

On August 9, 2007, this writer conducted a pre-permit inspection of the sewage treatment plant serving the Northwestern Local School System (high school, middle school and elementary school). Below are our findings and recommendations from the inspection:

At the time of the inspection, the treatment plant effluent could not be located. However, the effluent from the chlorine contact tank appeared to be slightly cloudy. The plant components did appear to be in good operation.

The wastewater system consists of a trash trap, influent pump station, flow equalization tank, extended aeration plant, dosing chamber, slow surface sand filters, chlorine contact tank with dechlorination, sludge holding tank, sludge drying beds and a trash trap and pump station for the elementary school. The influent pump station and the dosing chamber were in good condition. The flow equalization tank was in good condition with good air circulation. The mixed liquor in the aeration tank was chocolate brown in color and the sludge return lines were in operation and returning solids of a dark brown color. The clarifier had some solids buildup in the weirs. This could indicate that the sludge return pumps are not returning an adequate amount of sludge or the skimmer is not returning an adequate amount of solids. It may be beneficial to scrape down the sides of the hopper slopes periodically to break up some of the sludge build up.

The sand filters were in good condition at the time of the inspection. Please submit information to this office regarding the age of the sand media in the filters. The chlorine contact tank was in good condition and the chlorinator and dechlorinator were in good maintenance condition. The water in the chlorine contact tank was slightly cloudy. As a reminder, the chlorination and dechlorination chemicals need to be provided with spill containment.

Looking at flow data supplied for the wastewater treatment plant, it appears a better estimate for flow is needed at the plant. Acceptable methods for measuring flow in order of preference are: 1) elapsed time meter on sand filter dosing pumps, 2) elapsed time meters on influent pumps, 3) clean water use records. This flow measurement requirement will be included in the draft NPDES permit. Please notify this office of which method the system will be utilizing.

The sludge holding tanks were full at the time of the inspection and the sludge appeared to have a high solids content and was not very viscous. The sludge drying beds looked to be in poor condition with vegetative growth covering most of the surface of the beds. Please indicate if the sludge drying beds are currently being utilized as part of your sludge process. If the sludge drying beds are no longer in use, please notify this office of your main method for sludge removal from the plant (liquid hauling versus solids hauling). The grates on the sludge holding

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tanks were mildly corroded with some areas of rust. This could be considered a safety hazard and it would be beneficial to recondition the grates or replace them. Because an operator was not present during the inspection, the sludge removal frequency was not obtained. Based on the condition of the sludge in the holding tanks and the amount of solids in the clarifier, this office has concerns that solids are not being wasted or removed from this plant on a regular basis. Our records show the last time sludge was removed from the facility was in December 2003. Please submit information to this office regarding your sludge wasting rates, sludge removal frequency (including trash trap cleaning), the facility where the sludge is hauled and the contractor hired to perform the sludge removal.

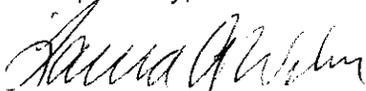
A review of your monthly operating reports covering the period January 2003 through June 2007 revealed the following effluent violations:

Reporting Period	Station	Reporting Code	Parameter	Limit Type	Limit	Reported Value	Violation Date
March 2005	001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3)	30DConc	3.0	3.85	3/1/2005
February 2005	001	00530	Total Suspended Solids	30DConc	12	21.	2/1/2005
February 2005	001	00530	Total Suspended Solids	7DConc	18	21.	2/22/2005
February 2005	001	80082	CBOD 5 day	30DConc	10	100.	2/1/2005
February 2005	001	80082	CBOD 5 day	7DConc	15	100.	2/22/2005
February 2005	001	80082	CBOD 5 day	30DQty	0.54	1.1355	2/1/2005
February 2005	001	80082	CBOD 5 day	7DQty	0.86	1.1355	2/22/2005
February 2003	001	00530	Total Suspended Solids	30DConc	25	37.	2/1/2003
June 2003	001	31616	Fecal Coliform	30DConc	1000	1100.	6/1/2003
May 2007	001	00530	Total Suspended Solids	30DConc	12	23.	5/1/2007
May 2007	001	00530	Total Suspended Solids	7DConc	18	23.	5/8/2007

The existing National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for this facility expires on January 31, 2008. The renewal NPDES permit for this facility is being drafted and will be public noticed in the near future. You will have 30 days from the date of the public notice to submit comments to Ohio EPA regarding the draft permit.

Overall, the results of the inspection were satisfactory. If you have any questions or comments regarding this letter, please contact this office at (330) 963-1299.

Respectfully,



Laura A. Weber, P.E.  
Environmental Engineer  
Division of Surface Water

LAW/mt

ec: Rich Blasick, P.E., Ohio EPA, DSW, NEDO

File: Semi-Public/Wayne/Chester Twp/Northwestern Local Schools