



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

**Southeast District Office**

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Logan, Ohio 43138

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

May 9, 2008

**Re:** Athens County  
The Plains SD WWTP  
NPDES Permit 0PJ00005  
Compliance Inspection  
Correspondence (PWW)

Athens County Board of Commissioners  
15 South Court Street  
Athens, Ohio 45701

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

On Wednesday, April 16, 2008, I conducted a compliance evaluation inspection at The Plains Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). Rich Kasler accompanied me during the inspection and represented the Athens County Board of Commissioners and The Plains Water and Sewer District. The purpose of the inspection was to determine if the WWTP is in compliance with the terms and conditions set forth in the NPDES Permit.

During the inspection the following concerns arose.

1. During the inspection, I observed what appeared to be septic, denitrifying sludge in the chlorine contact tank. This was evident by the dark color of the water and significant release of gas bubbles on the surface. Rich stated that the tank had not been cleaned recently. He said he planned to have the tank drained and cleaned prior to the beginning of the disinfection season (May 1st). The chlorine contact tank should be cleaned on a regular basis to prevent the accumulation of solids and subsequent denitrification.
2. During the inspection, a significant accumulation of solids were observed on the surface of the secondary clarifiers between the overflow weirs and outer wall of the clarifier. Rich attributed the accumulated solids to a recent heavy rainfall event. The accumulated solids need to be cleaned from around the overflow weirs to prevent Total Suspended Solids violations and further solids accumulating in the chlorine contact tank.
3. Rich asked about the possibility of using digester section of the third (offline) contact stabilization unit as a backup sludge digester/holding tank and what, if any, permit changes would be required. I told him the use of the third unit for additional sludge digestion/holding would be acceptable and not require any changes to the permit.

The Plains SD WWTP  
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A copy of the inspection report is enclosed with this letter. Please respond, in writing, to the comments above within thirty (30) days of receiving this letter. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (740) 380-5226.

Sincerely,



Patrick Hudnall  
District Engineer  
Division of Surface Water

PH/dh

Enclosure

c: Rich Kasler, The Plains Water & Sewer District

**NPDES**  
Compliance Inspection Report

**A. National Data System Coding**

Permit No.	NPDES No.	Date	Inspection Type	Inspector	Facility Type
0PJ00005	OH0050580	April 16, 2008	C	S	1

**B. Facility Data**

Name and Location of Facility Inspected	Entry Time	Permit Effective Date
The Plains WWTP 11308 Jackson Drive The Plains, Ohio 45780	11:00 a.m.	June 1, 2003
	Exit Time	Permit Expiration Date
	11:45 a.m.	May 31, 2008

Name(s) and Title(s) of On-Site Representative(s)	Phone Number(s)
Rich Kasler, Operator	(740) 493-7146
Name, Address and Title of Responsible Official	Phone Number
Athens County Board of Commissioners 15 South Court Street Athens, Ohio 45701	(740) 593-7146

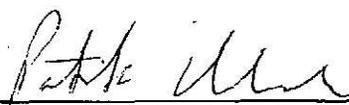
**C. Areas Evaluated During Inspection**

<u>  </u> S Permit	<u>  </u> S Flow Measurement	<u>  </u> N Pretreatment
<u>  </u> S Records/Reports	<u>  </u> S Laboratory	<u>  </u> N/A Compliance Schedules
<u>  </u> M Operations & Maintenance	<u>  </u> S Effluent/Receiving Waters	<u>  </u> S Self-Monitoring Program
<u>  </u> M Facility Site Review	<u>  </u> S Sludge Storage/Disposal	<u>  </u> Other
<u>  </u> N/A Collection System		

(S = Satisfactory, M = Marginal, U = Unsatisfactory, N = Not Evaluated)

**D. Summary of Findings/Comments** (attach additional sheets if necessary)

See attached inspection letter.

  
Patrick Hudnall, Inspector, Ohio EPA, Southeast District Office

5/8/08  
Date

  
Timothy M. Campbell, Reviewer, Ohio EPA, Southeast District Office

5/8/08  
Date