



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Southeast District Office

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

March 28, 2008

Re: Athens County
Village of Albany
Compliance Evaluation Inspection
NPDES Permit #0PB00087*BD
Correspondence (PWW)

Mayor and Council
Village of Albany
5153 Alton Street
Albany, Ohio 45710

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

On March 20, 2007, Tim Campbell and I, representing Ohio EPA's Division of Surface Water, performed a compliance inspection of the Albany wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). Mayor Thomas, Tim Kirkendall (Albany Sewer Committee Member), and Rick Verhotz (operator) represented the Village of Albany and assisted us during the inspection. The purpose of the inspection was to determine if the treatment plant was meeting the terms and conditions set forth in its NPDES permit.

During the inspection, the following comments/concerns were observed and discussed.

1. At the time of the inspection, two of the three sand filters were ponded and overflowing onto the ground. The third sand filter was in the process of being dewatered and cleaned. Rick hoped to have the third sand filter ready for service within a week, weather permitting. The overflow of the sand filters constitutes an illegal bypass of the treatment plant and must be reported according to Part III, Section 12 of the NPDES Permit. Note that reporting an illegal bypass in accordance with Part III of the NPDES Permit does not absolve the village from legal liabilities and future enforcement action by the Ohio EPA.

During the inspection, high peak flows associated with Inflow and Infiltration (I/I) along with problems with the WWTP clarifier design were discussed as causes of bypass of the sand filters. The Village of Albany must still make every effort possible to prevent and/or stop bypasses of the WWTP.

2. One option discussed to help prevent plant bypasses from the sand filters was the installation of overflow valves between the sand filters. These would allow the operator to continue to divert the clarifier effluent to the failing sand filter as a sort of settling basin and overflow the effluent to a clean sand filter. As discussed, this is not a long term solution, as the sand filters will still fail eventually, but this could provide the operator more time to make other arrangements to prevent any bypasses from the sand filters.

3. As stated above, Rick expressed concern with high peak flows associated with I/I during rain events. Rick stated a "smoke test" was conducted in 2006 (report attached), which identified some potential sources of I/I such as downspout connections and broken or missing cleanout caps. As discussed during the inspection, to date no action has been taken to correct the problems identified as part of the 2006 smoke test.

During the inspection, we also discussed conducting a manhole and lift station survey to locate additional sources of I/I. A manhole and lift station survey simple consists of visually inspecting the structures and identifying the potential for I/I (i.e. manhole lids below grade allowing surface water to flow into the manhole or excessive groundwater leaking into the manhole along the joints).

As part of your response to this letter, please include a plan to address and correct the issues identified in the 2006 smoke test, and conduct a thorough manhole/lift station survey. Also include in your response a time frame in which the village will address any issues identified in the manhole/lift station survey.

4. During the inspection, Rick mentioned the addition of a MicroScreen unit or other solids removal system after the clarifiers and prior to the sand filters to try to prevent future bypasses from the sand filters. While the Ohio EPA does not want to discourage the village from researching and discussing this option, we feel that the priority at this time should be removing I/I from the collection system. As Rick stated, the plant seems to operate properly during dry periods; which indicates the first step should be to try to feasibly remove I/I from the collection system. If at such a time the village feels that they have exhausted all feasible options for the removal of I/I in the collections system, an additional solids removal unit may become a better option.
5. At the time of the inspection, a significant amount of grease had accumulated on the surface of the clarifiers. The skimmers did not appear to adequately remove floating solids from the clarifiers and Rick stated that he often had to manually skim the clarifiers. The village should work with local food service facilities to identify possible sources of the grease in the collection system and implement better grease handling facilities at the sources.

Please respond, in writing, within thirty (30) days addressing the above comments/ concerns. 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: Rick Verhotz, Operator
- c: Tim Kirkendall, Albany Sewer Committee

NPDES Compliance Inspection Report

A. NATIONAL DATA SYSTEM CODING

Permit No.	NPDES No.	Date	Inspection Type	Inspector	Facility Type
0PB00087*BD	OH0127809	March 20, 2008	C	S	1

B. FACILITY DATA

Name and Location of Facility Inspected	Entry Time	Permit Effective Date
Village of Albany WWTP 6060 East Clinton Street Albany, Ohio	9:15 a.m.	September 1, 2006
	Exit Time	Permit Expiration Date
	10:30 a.m.	August 31, 2011

Name(s) and Title(s) of On-Site Representative(s)	Phone Number(s)
Mayor Thomas Rick Verholz, Operator	(740) 698-6127 (740) 380-2742
Name, Address and Title of Responsible Official	Phone Number
Village of Albany 5153 Alton Street Albany, Ohio 45710	(740) 698-6127

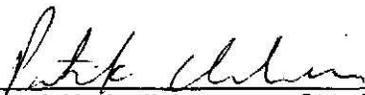
C. AREAS EVALUATED DURING INSPECTION

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

3/28/08
 Date


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

3/28/08
 Date