



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

**Southeast District Office**

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

November 18, 2009

**Re:** Vinton County  
Lake Hope State Park  
WWTP Inspections  
Correspondence (PWW)

Mr. Randy Zeisler, Manager  
Lake Hope State Park  
27331 State Route 278  
McArthur, Ohio 45651

Dear Mr. Zeisler:

On October 2, 2009, I met with Greg Masterson and Mike Reffet to discuss operations at Lake Hope State Park's three wastewater treatment plants (WWTP). At that time, we also performed inspections. The inspections were performed in order to determine compliance with NPDES Permits OPP00066\*DD (Lodge Hill Plant), OPP00067\*CD (Old Hill Cabin Plant), OPP00073\*CD (Beach Plant) and ORC Chapter 6111. The results of the inspections are listed below by each individual treatment plant.

**Old Hill Cabins Plant, NPDES No. OPP00067\*CD:**

The plant appeared to be overloaded with sludge. This was apparent from the deep color of the aeration basin, growth of bacteria on the weir (kept down by the chlorine tablets), and growth of plants on the sand filters.

**Lodge Hill Plant, NPDES OPP00066\*DD:**

At the time of the inspection, the plant appeared to be overloaded with sludge. This was apparent from the deep color of the aeration basin, growth of bacteria on the weir (kept down by the chlorine tablets), and growth of plants on the sand filters. Additionally, the dechlorination tank was floating in the chlorine contact tank.

**Spillway (Beach) Plant, NPDES OPP00073\*CD:**

The plant is operated seasonally. At the time of the inspection, the plant was in the process of being shut down for the winter. Each May there are a number of frequency violations until the beach opens on Memorial Day. On each day the of the monthly operating report staff must report that the plant is either not discharging, not staffed, or evaluate odor, turbidity, and color.

**Summary:**

It appears that effluent limit violations are decreasing since my last inspection; however, plant operation can still be improved. Based on observations made at that time, Ohio EPA would like to provide the following comments and recommendations regarding the Old Hill Cabins Plant and the Lodge Hill Plant operated by ODNR at Lake Hope State Park:

1. The plants appear to be overloaded with sludge. Sludge must be wasted when the when the operator has determined it is needed. If the solids are too high, sludge ends up throughout the plant, and effluent limit violations are expected. Plant operation can be improved by hauling sludge more often. Less money may be spent hauling sludge than having operators clean the sand filter beds.
2. Mike and Greg stated that the since the dechlorination unit has been installed, the effluent is violating its dissolved oxygen limit more often. This corresponds with the monthly operating reports; however, I suggest close monitoring or adjustment of the dechlorination tablets being used. This may require visiting the plant twice a day to add an additional tablet later in the day rather than using two tablets a day at the beginning of the day, etc.
3. There are a number of frequency violations for water temperature and dissolved oxygen. Repeated equipment failure is not an acceptable excuse for not sampling.
4. Please also note as required by operator rules, all time spent at the plant must be logged. Please immediately begin keeping a log book at each plant.
5. By the end of January 2010, please have an operation and maintenance manual created. It must include basic information on how to operate the plant, equipment maintenance, a schedule to pump out solids and an operation budget. The manual will have to be modified as plant operation changes; for example the manual will have to be updated when the new plant is constructed.
6. The Old Hill Cabins WWTP and the Lodge Hill Cabin WWTP should have at a minimum, an hour meter installed to record the run time of the dosing pump and calibrated to facilitate accurate flow monitoring. This would ensure you had an accurate measure of the flow. It could be used to identify any inflow/infiltration problems and to ensure the next plant is large enough to accommodate your current flow.

Though limit violations have decreased in 2009, there are 243 permit limit violations since January of 2007 at the Old Hill Cabins, Lodge, and Beach WWTP. In addition there are 240 frequency violations since January 2007. Part III of the NPDES permits requires a response in writing for each violation. Starting in November 2009, a written explanation for each violation each month must be submitted.

I have attached copies of the inspection reports. Some of the areas were given marginal or unsatisfactory ratings due to the issues mentioned above. Within 30 days of receipt of this letter please provide a written response outlining how operations at Lake Hope Wastewater Treatment Plants will improve. This response should address each of the preceding comments/recommendations. Please call me if you have any questions at (740) 380-5266.

Sincerely,



Cynthia Yandrich  
District Representative  
Division of Surface Water

CY/dh

Enclosures

c: Mike Reffet, Operator, Lake Hope State Park  
c: Greg Masterson, ODNR  
c: Tara Lee

**NPDES**  
Compliance Inspection Report

**A. NATIONAL DATA SYSTEM CODING**

Permit No.	NPDES No.	Date	Inspection Type	Inspector	Facility Type
0PP00073*DD	OH0091367	October 2, 2009	C	S	1

**B. FACILITY DATA**

Name and Location of Facility Inspected	Entry Time	Permit Effective Date
Lake Hope State Park Beach WWTP State Route 278. 0.1 mile west of dam Brown Township, Vinton County	12:30 p.m.	July 1, 2007
	Exit Time	Permit Expiration Date
	12:40 p.m.	June 30, 2012

Name(s) and Title(s) of On-Site Representative(s)	Phone Number(s)
Randy Zeisler, Manager	(740) 596-4938
Name, Address and Title of Responsible Official	Phone Number
Mike Reffet, Operator Lake Hope State Park 27331 State Route 278 McArthur, Ohio 45651	(740) 596-4938

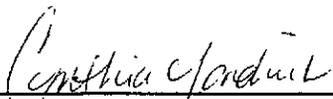
**C. AREAS EVALUATED DURING INSPECTION**

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

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

**D. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS/COMMENTS** (attach additional sheets if necessary)

See attached letter.

  
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Cynthia Yandrich, Inspector, Ohio EPA, Southeast District Office

11-18-09  
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Date

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

11/18/09  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date