



**Environmental
Protection Agency**

John R. Kasich, Governor
Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor
Scott J. Nally, Director

RE: Mercer County
Mercer County Commissioners
NPDES Permit

January 11, 2012

Mr. Kent Hinton
220 West Livingston Street, Suite A 230
Celina, Ohio 45822

Dear Mr. Hinton:

On December 21, 2011, inspections were made of the West Jefferson and Wagner's Subdivision wastewater treatment systems.

West Jefferson

At the time of inspection, the aeration tanks had a healthy brown color and were receiving an adequate amount of air. The returns and skimmers were operating properly. The clarifier had some scum and bulking sludge floating on the surface. The effluent from the upflow filters appeared to be clear. The sand filters had some solids, some ponding and some plant growth on the surface. The effluent appeared to be clear. The log book for the plant was present. It appears that proper documentation was being maintained and that minimum staffing hours are being met. Please note that during the inspection, about half of the grates were off of the tanks. For safety, these grates should be returned to their proper position and should be left in place when work is not being performed on the tank.

We are in receipt of the discharge monitoring reports from May 2011 through November 2011. Our review indicates the following violations of the terms and conditions of your NPDES permit:

| Violation Date | Station | Reporting Code | Parameter | Limit Type | Limit | Reported Value |
|----------------|---------|----------------|-------------------------|------------|-------|----------------|
| 5/1/2011 | 001 | 00610 | Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3) | 30D Conc | 1.5 | 1.8 |
| 6/1/2011 | 001 | 31648 | E. coli | 30D Conc | 161 | 260. |

Mr. Kent Hinton
January 11, 2012
Page Two

Wagner's Subdivision

In general, both operation and maintenance appeared fair. The mixed liquor in the aeration tanks was light in color, but was receiving an adequate amount of air. The sludge return and skimmer were both operating well. The clarifier appeared to be operating well. The east sand filter was covered in solids and was slightly ponded in areas.

There was a significant amount of flow from the tank after the clarifier into the sand filter dosing chamber; however, after observation for about 15 minutes, the pumps never dosed the sand filter. There was also a significant amount of flow observed in the chlorine contact tank even though there was no dosing to the sand filter during the inspection. The effluent discharging was dark in color as documented on the enclosed pictures, suggesting to us that the sand filters are being bypassed even though you have been told before that this is not an acceptable practice and you have indicated in writing that you were no longer doing it. **Please inform this office in writing within 14 days of receipt of this letter if this practice continues or what steps were taken to ensure that sand filter bypassing is no longer taking place.**

The log book for the plant was present. It appears that proper documentation was being maintained and that minimum staffing hours are being met.

We are in receipt of the discharge monitoring reports from May 2011 through November 2011. Our review indicates no violations of the terms and conditions of your NPDES permit.

If you have any questions, please call me at (419) 373-3019.

Sincerely,



Michelle Sharp
Environmental Specialist II
Division of Surface Water

/jlm

Enclosures

pc: Mr. Jared Ebbing, Mercer County Economic Development

ec: Inspection Tracking



Wagner's Discharge 12-21-11



Wagner's Discharge 12-21-11



Wagner's Discharge 12-21-11



Wagner's Discharge 12-21-11



Wagner's Discharge 12-21-11



Wagner's Sandfilter 12-21-11



Wagner's piping between dosing chamber and sandfilter
12-21-11 006