



**Environmental
Protection Agency**

John R. Kasich, Governor

Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor

Scott J. Nally, Director

March 2, 2012

RE: ROCK CREEK VILLAGE WWTP
ROCK CREEK VILLAGE, ASHTABULA CO.
OHIO EPA PERMIT 3PA00029
COMPLIANCE EVALUATION INSPECTION

Honorable Beverly Martin, Mayor
Chip Laugen, Village Administrator
Village of Rock Creek
3081 West Water Street
P.O. Box 92
Rock Creek, OH 44084

Dear Mayor Martin and Mr. Laugen:

On March 1, 2012, a site inspection was conducted at the above referenced facility at 2600 Stiles Avenue, Village of Rock Creek, Ashtabula County. The inspection was conducted by John Schmidt of this office. Mark Verzella represented Ashtabula County Department of Environmental Services (ACDES) of behalf of the village, and you, Chip Laugen, James Hall, Kevin Justice, and Harold Justice, all from the Village of Rock Creek, were present for the inspection. The purpose of the inspection was to evaluate the facility's compliance status with respect to the terms and conditions of the facility's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The last compliance inspection was conducted on March 10, 2011.

The system consists of preliminary treatment, flow equalization, 70,000 gpd dual-unit extended aeration activated sludge treatment, final settling, surface sand filtration, chlorine disinfection, and dechlorination. Sludge handling includes an aerated sludge-holding tank and a fabric "sock" bladder dewatering. Sludge is hauled off-site to a licensed solid waste landfill. The facility discharges to Rock Creek adjacent to the north side of the facility. There are no generators to provide backup power to the facility; however, a portable pumps and air compressor are available on-site.

Observations and Notations

Following are observations and notations made during the inspection:

1. The overall condition of the treatment plant during this inspection was satisfactory a significant improvement over the 2010 inspection.

2. The plant is operated by Kevin Justice and Harold Justice, with oversight provided by Mark Verzella. Mark Verzella and other staff of the Ashtabula County Department of Environmental Service (ACDES) are listed as the operator of record for this facility.
3. The facility logbook was inspected for compliance with Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 3745-7-09. The logbook contained the required information; however, operator starting and ending times must be provided in the logbooks. Operations and maintenance manuals were noted as available and properly updated.
4. The Village installed swales and drains to divert surface waters away from process tanks so that tanks do not receive unnecessary rainwater and snowmelt, which could adversely affect treatment processes. The swale that curves around the facility from east to south to southwest was better defined to convey storm water run-on away from the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). The grading work was accomplished in the Spring-Summer of 2011.
5. Screenings and grit was containerized for disposal at a solid waste landfill.
6. Influent and effluent samples consist of manual grab samples that are manually composited. The onsite refrigerator was noted as maintaining samples at the appropriate temperature.
7. The content of the aeration tank had good color and mixing. Settleability is getting better, while the nature of the septic influent requires the addition of bacteria weekly. Sludge returns were a dark brown color, with minimal foaming. This may be due to the nature of the waste accepted at septic/near septic conditions based upon the collection system serving the facility.
8. The surface of the clarifier was clear. The effluent trough was clean and there were some small amounts of scum noted around the effluent baffle and trough. The former holes on the clarifier walls noted during the 2010 inspection were repaired, and Ohio EPA notified of these repairs on April 5, 2010. The weirs and effluent channels should be scrubbed weekly.
9. Dosing pumps were cycled and found in operable condition.
10. The sand filters were clean and level. The effluent discharged to the sand filters during the inspection was clear and free of color and turbidity. The wastewater percolated freely through the sand indicating that the beds were not clogged.
11. Sludge tanks were noted in acceptable condition. Sludge was removed from the facility on February 29, 2012.
12. The final effluent at the disinfection tank outlet was clear and of acceptable visual quality. The disinfection tank needs cleaning, and the Village anticipates cleaning the tank in April prior to commencement of the disinfection season. The disinfection system was not in use due to the time of year. The final discharge at the creek was not inspected.

13. ACDES performs monitoring of pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen and screening for ammonia-nitrogen. DO meters are calibrated daily, and pH meters are calibrated weekly. Calibration logs were available for inspection. The Village of Rock Creek through ACDES contracts with Microbac Laboratories of Meadville, PA remaining parameters and quality assurance samples.

NPDES Permit Compliance Review

A review of the electronic discharge self-monitoring reports (eDMRs) received by Ohio EPA for the period February 1, 2011 through February 1, 2012 indicates apparent noncompliance of the terms and conditions of your NPDES permit, as follows:

Limit Violations

The following effluent violations are noted for the time period reviewed:

Station	Reporting Code	Parameter	Limit Type	Limit	Reported Value	Violation Date
001	00300	Dissolved Oxygen	1D Conc	7.0	6.5	6/23/2011
001	00300	Dissolved Oxygen	1D Conc	7.0	6.7	6/24/2011
001	00300	Dissolved Oxygen	1D Conc	7.0	6.5	6/28/2011

A review of Ohio EPA's files finds that a July 18, 2011 response was provided for the low dissolved oxygen. The corrective measures taken appear to have ensured no repetition of the violations. No additional response is needed at this time.

Reporting Violations

The following reporting violations were noted for the time period reviewed:

Station	Reporting Code	Parameter	Limit Type	Limit	Reported Value	Violation Date
001	50050	Flow Rate			AD	4/27/2011

A review of Ohio EPA's files finds that a May 17, 2012 response was provided for the lack of a meter reading. The corrective measures taken appear to have ensured no repetition of the violations. No additional response is needed at this time.

Compliance Schedule

Your permit, effective June 1, 2007, as modified on January 22, 2008 and March 9, 2009, contains the following milestones:

Permit Effective Date	Permit Expiration Date	Schedule Due Date	Completion Date	Event Code	Schedule Type	Schedule Milestone
7/1/2007	5/31/2012	11/30/2007	04/08/2009	-----	Other	Install Pump in Flow Equalization
7/1/2007	5/31/2012	11/30/2007	04/06/2009	-----	Other	Repair sludge Drying Beds
7/1/2007	5/31/2012	11/30/2007	04/06/2009	-----	Other	Notify Ohio EPA

As these milestones have been completed prior to the last inspection, no additional information is needed on the compliance schedule.

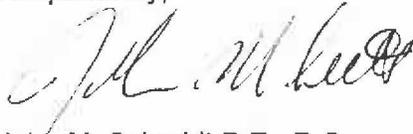
Comments

Ohio EPA offers the following comments:

1. NPDES Renewal: During the inspection, we discussed your NPDES renewal. We discussed additional parameters that the Village will need to monitor (nutrients and bacteria), and the new compliance schedule for bacteria. Your laboratory should be advised of these changes to ensure that the proper parameters are monitored.
2. Annual SSO Report: The annual sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) report is due in this office no later than March 31, 2012.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this notification, please feel free to contact me at (330) 963-1175.

Respectively,



John M. Schmidt P.E., R.S.
Environmental Engineer
Division of Surface Water

JMS/cs

cc: Mark Verzella, Ashtabula County Department of Environmental Services

File: Municipal/Rock Creek Village WWTP (Ashtabula Co.)/PC