



**Environmental
Protection Agency**

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

Re: Seneca County
Fostoria Mobile Estates
Sewerage

March 1, 2012

Mr. Ace Elsea
Elsea, Inc.
2015 Stoneridge Drive
Box 580
Circleville, Ohio 43113

Dear Mr. Elsea:

Inspections of the Fostoria Mobile Estates wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) were made on October 27, 2011, and January 6, 2012. Mr. Brad Borer, Certified Operator, was present and provided information regarding the plant operation during the January 6, 2012, inspection. Observations and recommendations noted during the inspection are as follows:

October 27, 2011

1. The contents of the tanks were being aerated at the time of the inspection. It was noted that some of the tanks had very little aeration.
2. Both sludge returns (2) and surface skimmers (2) were in operation.
3. It appeared that the east two (2) sand filter beds were in the process of being cleaned as dried sludge had been raked up. The west two (2) beds were in use.
4. A temporary UV disinfection unit was located in the chlorine contact tank.

January 6, 2012

5. Mr. Borer indicated that a new pump had been installed at the influent pump station, with the older pump available for backup use.
6. Piping from the lift station to the aeration tank has been modified with the addition of a valve and return pipe to create "flow equalization". It was indicated that the valve restricts flow into the plant, returning flow back to the lift station during peak flows.
7. Both sludge returns and one of the surface skimmers were in operation. It was indicated that the surface skimmer on the east side of the clarifier plugged often, and the tank is now manually skimmed. It was also indicated that the air supply from this skimmer was rerouted to the chlorine contact tank (post aeration).

8. It was indicated that the first blower is being used, as the second blower alone does not provide enough air to run the plant. An adequately sized backup blower needs be available to run the plant.
9. The bypass and/or overflow pipes located within the sand filter dosing lift station (one on east side and two on north side of the dosing pump station) have been plugged and/or capped.
10. The sand filter is divided into four sections. The southwest filter was in use and overflowing its walls onto the surrounding ground and into the other filter beds. The overflow was noted and Mr. Borer, Operator, physically switched flow to a filter bed that appeared to have been partially cleaned.

All of the sand filters contained solids, and were in need of additional cleaning. It is noted that the prolonged wet weather (2011 wettest year on record), may have increased wash out of solids to the filters and hindered the drying of the beds for cleaning.

11. Flows are to be reported daily as required by the NPDES permit. The data currently being reported on the discharge monitoring reports (DMRs) indicates the same flow every day for a month at a time.

Mr. Borer indicated that a run time meter (minute meter) is being used to measure flow, which is an acceptable method for estimating daily flows. The flows from the elapsed time meter should be recorded daily and reported daily as required by the NPDES permit.

12. The required operator log book is on site. Please note the following Operator Log Requirements:

A log book must be developed to keep an up to date record for waste water system operations and maintenance, which contains at a minimum the following information:

- *Identification of the sewerage system, or treatment works;*
- *date and times of arrival and departure for the operator of record;*
- *specific operation and maintenance activities that affect or have the potential to affect the quality or quantity of sewage received and/or effluent produced;*
- *results of tests performed and samples taken, unless documented on a laboratory bench sheet;*
- *performance of preventative maintenance and repairs or requests for repair of the equipment that affect or have the potential to affect the quality or quantity of sewage conveyed, effluent produced;*
- *and identification of the persons making entries.*

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The records must be kept up to date, contain a minimum of three months' data at all times, and be maintained on site for at least three years.

13. This facility is not fenced and the open sand filters and unlocked tanks pose a safety hazard.
14. The NPDES permit, *Part I, C - Schedule of Compliance, Municipal Disinfection Schedule*, requires submittal of a Permit to Install (PTI) and detail plans for disinfection facilities (i.e., ozonation, ultraviolet, chlorination, dechlorination, other), to meet final table effluent limitations. We have not yet received this required submittal.

A review of the discharge monitoring reports (October 2011 thru January 2012) shows no permit limit violations during this time.

If there are any questions, please contact me at 419-373-3014.

Yours truly,


Mary Beth Cohen
Division of Surface Water

/jlm

cc: Casey Chapman, AGO
Larry Reeder, DSW, CO
Brad Borer, Certified Operator
Laura Wallrabenstein, Seneca County General Health District
Inspection tracking