



**Environmental
Protection Agency**

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

RE: Mercer County
Fort Recovery Industries, Inc.
Industrial NPDES Permit

May 1, 2012

Mr. Dean G. Jetter
Chief Operating Officer
Fort Recovery Industries, Inc.
2440 State Route 49
P.O. Box 638
Fort Recovery, Ohio 45846

Dear Mr. Jetter:

On March 29, 2012, an inspection was completed at your facility. During this inspection, Mr. Brian DeLucenay, Mr. Barry Hounshell, and Ms. Cheryl Buckingham answered questions about the facility, explained how wastewater is handled, and took me on a tour of the facility.

At the facility, oily wastewater from the process lines is collected in a tank that has a skimmer. The water is treated with a regenerative evaporator and is then returned to be used on the process lines. The evaporator has a capacity of 1,000 liters per hour. The concentrate from this process as well as the skimmings from the tank are hauled off site. The wet finishing room contains a closed loop system that has a centrifuge to remove the water from solids. The trivalent chromate conversion line uses evaporators to treat the bath waters. The concentrate is returned to the baths and the condensate goes into the rinse tanks. The hexchrome baths receive chrome treatment and then go to the equalization (EQ) basin. The copper baths are put through an evaporator and then the concentrate is processed through an electrowinning unit to reclaim the copper. After all of the copper is reclaimed, the water receives cyanide treatment, goes through the sludge press, receives pH adjustment, and is discharged out outfall 601.

The wastewater in the EQ basin has the pH lowered and a cationic polymer added. In the next tank, the pH is raised to about 10 and an anionic polymer is added. The floc is allowed to settle out in a clarifier and the permeate is collected in the 601 holding tank. The water from this tank is continuously flowing through a bagfilter and discharging out the 601 outfall. Cleaner from the plating lines is collected and treated in a similar manner in a batch reaction and is bled into the 601 holding tank. The effluent from 601 mixes with the facility's non-contact cooling water before discharging to a tributary of the Wabash River. The effluent discharging on the day of the inspection appeared to be clear.

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The facility continues to express interest in recycling the water used at the facility and becoming a zero discharge facility. Please be aware that some changes to the treatment of the wastewater may need a Permit to Install (PTI). If you have questions about a specific project please contact us before proceeding with an installation.

A review of your discharge monitoring report (DMR) from July 2007 through March 2012 indicates the following violations of the limits established in your permit:

Violation Date	Station	Reporting Code	Parameter	Limit Type	Limit	Reported Value
7/12/2007	601	01067	Nickel, Total (Ni)	1D Conc	3980	6540.
7/12/2007	601	01092	Zinc, Total (Zn)	1D Conc	2610	3680.
8/20/2009	601	00530	Total Suspended Solids	1D Conc	60	63.
8/1/2010	601	00530	Total Suspended Solids	30D Conc	31	42.75
8/12/2010	601	00530	Total Suspended Solids	1D Conc	60	132.

This inspection was completed as a part of your National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit renewal process. We have received your permit renewal application and will be drafting your permit in the near future. When you receive the draft copy, please review it carefully as you will have 30 days to submit any comments you may have.

If you have any questions regarding the inspection or NPDES permit renewal, please contact me at 419-373-3019 or michelle.sharp@epa.state.oh.us.

Sincerely,



Michelle Sharp
Environmental Specialist II

/jlm

pc: Mr. Brian DeLucenay, FRI
Mr. Barry Hounshell, FRI
Ms. Cheryl Buckingham, FRI
ec: Inspection Tracking