



**Environmental
Protection Agency**

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

Re: **Notice of Violation**
Van Wert County
Van Wert City Elementary School
Construction
Storm Water

July 31, 2012

Mr. Ken Amstutz
Van Wert City Schools Board of Education
205 West Crawford Street
Van Wert, Ohio 45891

Mr. Josh Huffman
Charles Construction Services, Inc.
811 East Bigelow Avenue
Findlay, Ohio 45840

Mr. Kevin A. Straub
Richard L. Bowen & Associates, Inc.
211 Lost Creek Boulevard, Suite B
Lima, Ohio 45804

Dear Messrs. Amstutz, Huffman, and Straub:

On July 10, 2012, I inspected the site of Van Wert City Elementary School at 10992 State Route 118, Van Wert (photos taken). The purpose of my inspection was to evaluate compliance of the site with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for storm water discharges associated with construction activity, Facility ID No. 2GC02900*AG. The inspection was conducted under the provisions of Ohio's water pollution control statutes, Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Chapter 6111. The visit was a follow-up to the July 3, 2012, letter. Mr. Larry Geren, Project Superintendent, Richard L. Bowen & Associates, Inc. was present to provide some information on the project.

As a result of the inspection, I have the following comments:

1. At the time of the inspection, exterior construction was complete. Catch basins had been installed, but a final course of asphalt was not yet in place.
2. A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWP3) indicated that the catch basins flow to a detention pond in the southwest corner of the site. The detention pond overflows into the high school's existing detention pond, which is then pumped and travels by gravity flow offsite.

3. Inspection logs were available for review but were inadequate. *Permit Requires:* Inspections must be conducted weekly and within 24 hours of a 0.5" rainfall. Inspections must include: disturbed areas, material storage areas, all sediment and erosion control measures, discharge locations, and all vehicle access points. Records must include: inspector name and qualifications, inspection date, observations, a certification that the facility is in compliance with the SWP3 and the permit, and identify any incidents of non-compliance. The record and certification must be signed in accordance with Part V.G. of the permit.
4. Silt fence had been installed along the perimeter of the site, but had fallen in many places. Also, the joints of the fence were overlapping. The stakes at the joints should be wrapped around one another and entrenched. *Permit Requires:* All control practices shall be maintained and repaired as needed to assure continued performance of their intended function. *This is a violation of Part III.G.2.h. of the permit.* The fencing must be repaired or replaced.
5. Storm drain inlet protection had been installed.
6. A stone construction entrance was in place and there was little to no tracking into the street.
7. A large majority of the site had been seeded and mulched, including the pond banks. It appeared that the seed was not growing and much of the mulching had been removed. An area at the northwest corner of the building had not been stabilized and the weeds and weathered soil indicated the timeframe for stabilization may have been exceeded. There were also soil stockpiles east of the school that had not been stabilized.

Permit Requires: Portions of the site that will be inactive for more than 21 days must have temporary stabilization initiated within the first seven. Temporary stabilization is required prior to the onset of winter for ground that will be idle over winter. Permanent stabilization is required within seven days on any portion of the site that has reached final grade or will be idle for longer than one year. Soil stabilization practices shall be initiated within two days on inactive, barren areas within 50 feet of a stream. Permanent seeding and mulching is required before construction activity is completed throughout the entire site. If seasonal conditions prohibit the establishment of vegetative cover, other means, such as mulching and matting, must still be used and maintained until more permanent methods can be implemented. *This is a violation of Part III.G.2.b.i. of the permit.*

8. I observed worn inlet protection in the east parking lot, and sediment build-up on the inlet protection on many of the catch basins onsite.

Messrs. Amstutz, Huffman and Straub
July 31, 2012
Page Three

9. The north inlet to the detention pond had a stone apron, but there was evidence of erosion around the edges of the apron. *Permit requires:* Operators shall undertake special measures to stabilize channels and outfalls. *This is a violation of Part III.G.2. of the permit.* I recommend making the channel U-shaped, using a geotextile and adding more stone if needed.

Within 10 days of the date on this letter, please submit to this office **written notification** as to the reasons for the above mentioned comments as well as the actions taken or proposed to prevent any future violations. Your response should include the dates, either actual or proposed, for the completion of the actions.

If there are any questions, please contact me at (419) 373-3025.

Sincerely,



Jessica Heitman
Division of Surface Water
Storm Water Program

/jlm

ec: Larry Geren, Richard L. Bowen & Associates, Inc., Project Superintendent
Kyle Wendel, Van Wert County Engineer
Tracking