



**Environmental
Protection Agency**

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

August 7, 2012

Re: Pretreatment
Steiner Cheese, Inc.
Village of Baltic
Compliance Inspection
IDP No. ODP00062*AP

Mr. Stanley Mullet, General Manager
Steiner Cheese, Inc.
115 Mill Street
Baltic, Ohio 43804

Dear Mr. Mullet:

On July 25, 2012, I inspected Steiner Cheese. Also present during the inspection were Tim Griffith, Wastewater Superintendent, Jack McQueen, President, Board of Public Affairs, and Lana Guisinger, Mayor, representing the Village of Baltic. The inspection was conducted to evaluate the facility's compliance with federal and state pretreatment regulations and its Indirect Discharge Permit (IDP). Nancy Meek, Secretary, Roman Schlabach, Milk Dumper, and you represented Steiner Cheese during the inspection. Based on the inspection, Steiner Cheese is in violation of its Indirect Discharge Permit and ORC 6111.04.

General Facility Description:

Steiner Cheese produces Swiss cheese. An average of 1.1 million pounds of milk is received each month in milk cans. The milk is conveyed to either a 5000 gallon or 6000 gallon refrigerated tank. The milk is heat treated and cooled. The milk then enters a cream separator followed by a cheese making vat where cultures are added. Once curd is formed, it is drained to remove whey, pressed, cooled, cured then aged. Whey is stored in a refrigerated tank prior to hauling to Brewster Cheese.

Wastewater is generated from cleaning and sanitation of milk cans, milk storage tanks, piping, process areas, and cheese making equipment. There is also a blow down from a small boiler at the facility. Brine water used for curing the cheese is discharged approximately once per year. The brine was reported to have been hauled off site this year. Average daily flow on discharge days was reported as approximately 5800 gallons. A totalizing flow meter with instantaneous flow readings was installed as required. A valve on the discharge line is set to discharge at 6.8 gpm. The discharge rate gradually slows as debris accumulates in the valve. Wastewater is discharged from one 6000 gallon equalization tank while the second is used to accumulate wastewater. Cheese is made on weekdays except Thursdays and also on Saturdays.

Required Actions:

1. Part 1.B., Paragraph 3 of Steiner's IDP required the facility to apply for coverage under the general NPDES permit for storm water from industrial activity no later than June 1, 2012, including submission of a storm water pollution prevention plan(SWP3). Steiner

Southeast District Office
2195 Front Street
Logan, OH 43138-8637

740 | 385 8501
740 | 385 6490 (fax)
www.epa.ohio.gov

failed to submit both the application and the SWP3 as of this date. Steiner is in violation of its IDP. Steiner should submit the required application and SWP3 at the earliest possible date. Steiner has released milk or whey into Brush Run on multiple occasions. Approximately 1000 gallons of whey was released from the tank truck loading area on July 27, 2012. Ohio EPA had notified Steiner that the whey loading area was at risk for spills entering waters of the state in prior communications. Improved engineering controls are urgently needed to prevent further releases. Ohio EPA's On Scene Coordinator issued a notice of violation for the 7/27/12 release.

2. Part II, Paragraph 2 of Steiners IDP requires Steiner to provide a copy of each discharge monitoring report to the Village of Baltic. Please provide a copy of the January through June, 2012 report to the Village within 30 days, and provide copies of all future reports to the Village of Baltic at the time they are submitted to Ohio EPA.
3. Part I, Paragraph A. of Steiners IDP requires daily monitoring for 24 hour total flow. On dates when the facility is not discharging, Steiner should enter a zero or AC code for the flow value, or the AN code if the facility is not staffed but there is a discharge. Blank entries may result in monitoring frequency violations.
4. Part III, Paragraph 4 of Steiner's IDP requires sampling and analysis of pollutants to conform to 40 CFR 136. Samples must be refrigerated after collection. The temperature should be maintained at 6 degrees C or cooler, and proper temperature should be confirmed upon delivery to the lab. Please ensure that all samples are properly refrigerated after collection in the future.
5. Part III, Paragraph 2.B.3 prohibits the discharge of solid or viscous pollutants in amounts which will cause obstruction in the flow in sewers, or other interference with the operation of the POTW. Steiner shall install screens on its floor drains and/or take other appropriate measures to eliminate the presence of cheese cloth and other solid wastes in the process discharge. The solid wastes are interfering with flow regulation in the equalization system and adversely affecting the Baltic WWTP. Please correct this problem within 60 days and notify Ohio EPA when this action been completed.

Comments:

1. Steiner Cheese discontinued operations in January 2011, reopening a few months later. Steiner resumed discharging to the Baltic sewer on May 27, 2012. Ohio EPA required Steiner to apply for and obtain an Ohio EPA Indirect Discharge Permit due to historic problems at the facility, including slug discharges, spills of whey and milk to waters of the state, and contributing to pass through and interference at the Baltic WWTP. The permit was issued with an effective date of 2/1/12. The Baltic WWTP has maintained compliance with its NPDES permit as of this date since the discharge to the Baltic sewer was resumed.
2. Please forward a copy of Steiner's most recent laboratory results from Ream and Haager Laboratory to Ohio EPA.

3. Steiner indicated it would retain its permit to discharge to the Coshocton WWTP for use in the event of captured spills. This disposal option is not expected to be used except on rare occasions.
4. Steiner reported that its spent brine was hauled off site during the past year. Please provide documentation on the quantity and destination of the brine disposal. Ohio EPA requests this information under authority of Part III, Paragraph 8 of the IDP.
5. The Village of Baltic and Ohio EPA should be notified in the event of any unusual releases to the sanitary sewer. Please notify the POTW as soon as possible at (330) 897-1035, and Ohio EPA at (740) 385-8501. For accidental discharges to waters of the state, please call Ohio EPA's 24 hour Emergency Response line at (800) 282-9378. This requirement is found in Part II, Paragraph 3 of the IDP.
6. Steiner's discharge piping includes a bypass pipe and valve on its equalization system. Steiner's is advised that bypassing of equalization is prohibited by the IDP and 40 CFR 403.17, except as allowed by the rule and if proper notifications are given in advance.
7. Part I.B, Paragraph 1. of the IDP requires Steiner to calibrate its flow meter at a minimum annual frequency to ensure the meter provides accurate flow measurements. Please ensure the flow meter is calibrated and retain written documentation of calibration events.

Ohio EPA may initiate enforcement action against Steiner Cheese if the company fails to return to compliance with its IDP and ORC 6111.04 within 60 days. Please respond to this letter in writing within 30 days.

You may contact me at (740) 380-5423 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Fred J. Snell
Pretreatment Coordinator
Division of Surface Water

FJS/dh

Enclosure

- c: Tim Griffith, Superintendent, Baltic WWTP
- c: Pretreatment Unit, DSW, CO
- c: Trevor Irwin, DERR, SEDO



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Southeast District Office

Pretreatment NPDES Compliance Inspection Report

Section A: National Data System Coding					
Permit #	NPDES #	Month/Day/Year	Inspection Type	Inspector	Facility Type
ODP00062*AP	OHP000260	July 25, 2012	6	S	2

Section B: Facility Data			
Name and Location of Facility Inspected		Entry Time	Permit Effective Date
Steiner Cheese, LLC 115 Mill Street Baltic, Ohio 43804		11:00 a.m.	February 1, 2012
		Exit Time	Permit Expiration Date
		1:00 p.m.	January 31, 2017
Name(s) and Title(s) of On-Site Representative(s)		Phone Number(s)	
Nancy Meek, Secretary		(330) 897-5555	
Roman Schlabach, Milk Dumper		(330) 897-5555	
Name, Address, and Title of Responsible Official		Phone Number	
Stanley Mullet, General Manager		(330) 897-5555 (330) 204-6364 (cell)	

Section C: Areas Evaluated During Inspection					
(S = Satisfactory; M = Marginal; U = Unsatisfactory; N = Not Evaluated; N/A = Not Applicable)					
M	Permit	S	Flow Measurement	S	Pretreatment
M	Records/Reports	S	Laboratory	U	Compliance Schedules
M	Operations & Maintenance	S	Effluent/Receiving Waters	M	Self-Monitoring Program
M	Facility Site Review	N/A	Sludge Storage/Disposal		Other
S	Collection System				

Section D: Summary of Findings (attach additional sheets if necessary)			
See attached letter.			
Inspector		Reviewer	
Fred J. Snell		Jennifer M. Witte	
Division of Surface Water Southeast District Office		Compliance & Enforcement Supervisor Division of Surface Water Southeast District Office	
8/7/12 Date		8/7/12 Date	