



**Environmental  
Protection Agency**

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

August 8, 2012

RE: HARTSGROVE GENERAL STORE  
NPDES PERMIT NO. 3PR00270  
HARTSGROVE TOWNSHIP, ASHTABULA  
COMPLIANCE EVALUATION INSPECTION

Ms. Kathleen Grace Reed, Owner  
Hartsgrove General Store  
1109 East Patterson Street  
Tampa, FL 33604

Dear Ms. Reed:

On August 7, 2012, a site inspection was conducted at the above referenced facility at 5647 U.S. Route 6, Hartsgrove Township, Ashtabula County. The inspection was conducted by John Schmidt and Laura Barrett of this office. Yulonda Stevenson represented Hartsgrove General Store during 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 in conjunction with the renewal of said permit. The last compliance inspections were conducted on August 10, 2011 and November 1, 2011.

**Observations and Notations**

Following are observations and notations made during the inspection:

1. The plant was operated by Dustin Lewis and Marlene Knopsnider of Lewis Wastewater Management and Clean Streams, Inc. (Lewis) on behalf of Hartsgrove General Store through December 27, 2011. This facility has no operator of record from December 28, 2011 through July 31, 2012. Dustin Lewis and Marlene Knopsnider resumed duties as of August 1, 2012 with Dustin completing a new log as of August 1, 2012. Lewis collects samples for the June 2012 quarterly sampling. Lewis collects samples, performs laboratory analyses, and electronically submits the data to the electronic discharge monitoring report (eDMR) system.
2. Facility logs have been maintained at the site commencing on August 1, 2012, with the first bi-weekly inspections commencing on August 3, 2012 and August 6, 2012. Logs were produced showing operations for 2010 and 2011. No log information is available for January through July 2012. Current log information being maintained is compliant with OAC 3745-7-09. A copy of the NPDES permit, O & M manual, and contract with Lewis must also be maintained at the site. The log book must reflect the removal of sludge from this facility, who hauled it, and how many gallons of sludge were removed.
3. The content of the aeration tank had a light brown color and had good mixing. Sludge returns were found operable.

4. The aeration tank and clarifier were pumped and 2,000-gallons of material were removed by Frank's Septic on July 13, 2012.
5. The surface of the clarifier contained a significant accumulation of grease and scum for having been pumped a few weeks ago. Grease was noted between the baffle and the overflow weir. Excess grease and scum needs to be skimmed immediately. The skimmer a
6. Appears to be operating as designed. Effluent channels and weirs were also reasonably clean. An air line leak has been repaired.
7. The dosing tanks and alarms were cycled by manually lifting floats, and found operable.
8. The surface of the west sand filter was raked, level, and reasonably clean. Discharge to the bed was clear and percolated freely through the bed, indicating that it was not clogged. The east bed has an accumulation of sludge and weeds that must be removed. The splash pads of both beds were observed in deteriorated condition and should be either repaired or replaced.
9. The chlorination and dechlorination tanks were found to be reasonably clean. The tank had a significant accumulation of debris that must be removed. The tanks were found stocked with the appropriate chemicals.
10. An examination of the final outfall indicated no discharge.

#### **NPDES Permit Compliance Review**

A review of the electronic discharge self-monitoring reports (eDMRs) received by Ohio EPA for the period July 1, 2011 through July 1, 2012 contained no violations; however the following apparent noncompliance of the terms and conditions of your NPDES permit exist:

#### **Limit Violations**

No specific limit violations were noted for the time period reviewed; however quarterly data required by your NPDES permit were not collected in March 2012. Therefore, the performance of the plant during that time is unknown.

#### **Reporting Violations**

Ohio EPA notes that no eDMR was submitted for the months of January through May 2012, as well as July 2012. Analytical data was collected for the month of June 2012, but no flow, odor, color, or turbidity data was collected. These reports were due to be submitted by 20<sup>th</sup> of each month for the preceding month (i.e. the June 2012 report was due by July 20, 2012) and per your NPDES permit, was to include flow readings, observations, and analytical monitoring. For any months that the plant has no flow, the report should indicate no flow. Please provide a written explanation as to why data was not collected.

#### **Compliance Schedule Violations**

Your NPDES permit does not contain a compliance schedule.

#### **Other Violations**

1. **Failure to Designate an Operator of Record:** Part II, Item A of your NPDES permit, the wastewater treatment works must be under the supervision of a Class A State Certified Operator as required by OAC 3745-7-02. Ohio EPA notes that from December 27, 2012 through July 31, 2012, this facility had no operator of record. Ohio EPA acknowledges that

we have received a notification form indicating that you have an operator of record as of August 1, 2012. No additional information is needed to respond to the violation.

2. Failure to Report Monitoring Data: Part III, Item 4 of your NPDES permit requires you to submit monitoring reports to Ohio EPA electronically. A review of Ohio EPA files finds no reports submitted for the months of January-May 2012 and July 2012. This information must be submitted as soon as possible. Instructions for establishing an eDMR account to submit data may be found under Part II, Item 4 of your NPDES permit on page 12. You were advised of this through email several times in 2012.
3. Failure to maintain Wastewater Treatment Facility: From the observations made during the August 10, 2011 and electronic correspondence since, it is apparent that the existing wastewater treatment facility had not been maintained at the frequency required from December through at least June 2012. Lack of a licensed operator from December 27, 2012 through July 31, 2012, also demonstrates failure to properly maintain the wastewater treatment facility. Ohio EPA acknowledges that repairs to the facility were made in July 2012 and that as of August 1, 2012 you have a designated operator of record. No additional information is needed to respond to the violation.
4. Facility Log Book: Please be aware that records required pursuant to OAC 3745-7-09(A)(3) must be maintained at the facility and made available for inspection as required by rule which includes a log book, copy of the contract, and a copy of the NPDES permit. A log book must be maintained at the WWTP and available for inspection 24 hours a day. A minimum of three months data must be available onsite, and three years data must be readily available. This is typically accomplished by posting a mailbox or some other weather-tight container at the WWTP. The log book must include dates, sign-in and sign-out times to demonstrate that minimum staffing requirements are being met under OAC 3745-7-04. Your facility must be staffed by a licensed operator twice weekly for a total of an hour. You were advised of this requirement on November 15, 2011. Ohio EPA acknowledges that as of August 1, 2012 a log book containing the information required by OAC 3745-7-09, copy of the NPDES permit, and a copy of the contract with Lewis have been maintained at the site. You must still provide a copy of the O & M manual. No additional information is needed to respond to the violation.
5. Minimum Staffing Requirements: Based upon a lack of a log book to document visits by your ORC from January through July 2012, Hartsgrove General Store is in violation of OAC 3745-7-04 for not meeting minimum staffing hour requirements during that time. The facility must be staffed by a licensed operator twice weekly for a total of an hour. You were advised of this through email several times in 2012. Ohio EPA acknowledges that as of August 1, 2012, you have been meeting these requirements. No additional information is needed to respond to the violation.

***Comment***

Ohio EPA has your NPDES renewal application and has drafted a permit, but is unable to further process the permit until the facility has returned to substantial compliance.

**Based upon the findings of this inspection and the 2011 inspections, Hartsgrove General Store remains in significant noncompliance with the terms and conditions of its expired NPDES permit. Ohio EPA will be conducting a re-inspection of this facility within 45 days of the date of this letter. If violations persist, Ohio EPA will be escalating enforcement.**

If you have any questions or comments regarding this inspection, 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: Dustin Lewis, Lewis Wastewater Management, Madison, OH  
Marlene Knopsnider, Rock Creek, OH  
Yulonda Stevenson, Hartsgrove, OH  
File: SP/Ashtabula/Hartsgrove Twp./Hartsgrove General Store (3PR00270)