



**Environmental  
Protection Agency**

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

August 16, 2012

RE: GRAND RIVER ACADEMY  
OHIO EPA PERMIT 3PT00115  
AUSTINBURG TWP., ASHTABULA COUNTY  
COMPLIANCE EVALUATION INSPECTION

Mr. Tim Viands, Headmaster  
Grand River Academy  
3042 College Street  
Austinburg, OH 44010

Dear Mr. Viands:

On August 15, 2012, a site inspection was conducted at the above referenced facility at 3042 College Street, Austinburg Township, Ashtabula County. The inspection was conducted by John Schmidt of this office, and Mr. Joel Laughlin, Maintenance Supervisor, represented Grand River Academy during my 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. The last compliance inspections were conducted on September 21, 2011 and November 1, 2011.

The facility consists of two distinct sanitary package wastewater treatment plants, one known as the old plant (East Plant) and the other the new plant (West Plant).

**Observations**

The following observations were made during the inspection:

**General Comments – Both Plants**

1. The ORC contract, and log book of repairs and observations on each plant is maintained at the Grand River Academy maintenance office, a log book is maintained at each plant, along with a copy of the NPDES permit and O&M manual. Marlene Knopsnider and Dustin Lewis of Lewis Wastewater Management, performs routine operations at the WWTP, monitors the facility, and performs the sampling and submission of the electronic discharge monitoring report (eDMR) through Ohio EPA's Web-based application. Mr. Laughlin performs daily inspections of the plant and notifies Lewis if there is a problem.
2. Sludge and trash trap contents are removed by Northeast Septic on a quarterly basis and taken to either the Painesville City WWTP or the Ashtabula City WWTP.
3. Both plants are proposed to be abandoned once the school is connected to the Austinburg sanitary sewers. Per our discussions, sewer tie in is anticipated to be completed by the end of August 2012. This may be delayed due to the fact that some connections may require a sanitary sewer extension permit-to-install (PTI).

**West Plant (New Plant – College Street west of Warren Hall)**

4. This plant was decommissioned and tied into sanitary sewers on July 3, 2012, with the final outfall pipe from the plant removed. Grand River Academy must continue to report no flow

on the monthly eDMR reports until the NPDES permit has been terminated and you have received verification from the director.

East Plant (Old Plant – Velotta Street south of Sauder Hall)

5. The flow equalization basin blowers, pumps, and alarms were cycled, with the blower and alarms found in operating condition.
6. The aeration tank blowers and alarms were cycled and found in operable condition. The aeration tank contents were a dark brown color and had a faint earthy odor that is well aerated with no foaming.
7. Clarifiers were observed clear. The skimmer and return sludge lines were observed in operational condition. Effluent weirs and channels were noted as in acceptable condition, and are scrubbed multiple times weekly.
8. The sand filter dosing station pumps and alarms were cycled and found in operating condition.
9. The wastewater entering the sand filters was observed as clear. The west filter was found clean, raked, and free of vegetation and sludge, but the east filter had an accumulation of vegetation. The west filter was in operation while the east filter was not. The vegetation should be removed from the east filter in the event that it is needed prior to the plant shutdown.
10. The chlorine contact tank was found stocked with chemicals and was providing disinfection and dechlorination for the facility. The post disinfection aeration was found in operating condition.
11. The final discharge was observed as acceptable visual quality.

**NPDES Permit Compliance Review**

A review of the electronic discharge self-monitoring reports (eDMRs) received by Ohio EPA for the period August 1, 2011 through July 1, 2012 indicates apparent noncompliance of the terms and conditions of your NPDES permit as identified below:

Limit Violations

The following limit violations were noted for the period reviewed:

Station	Reporting Code	Parameter	Limit Type	Limit	Reported Value	Violation Date
001	00400	pH	1D Conc	6.5	6.42	3/5/2012

A written explanation as to why these exceedence events occurred must be provided, along with measures to ensure that they are not repeated.

Reporting Violations

No reporting violations were noted for the reporting period reviewed.

Compliance Schedule Violations

No compliance schedule violations were noted for the reporting period reviewed.

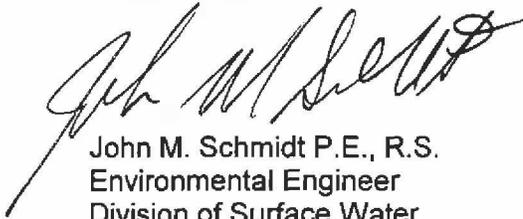
**Comment**

Ohio EPA offers the following comments:

1. During the visit, the installation of sewer connections from campus buildings to the county sewers was observed. Barry French from the Ashtabula County Department of Environmental Services was overseeing the installation of service laterals to ensure that they were meeting county requirements. Sewers that have been installed were discussed, as well as sewers which are proposed to be installed over the next few days. Attached please find a copy of a fact sheet of when a sanitary sewer extension PTI is required. The fact sheet may be found online at [http://www.epa.ohio.gov/portals/35/pti/PTI\\_Sanitary\\_Sewer\\_Projects.pdf](http://www.epa.ohio.gov/portals/35/pti/PTI_Sanitary_Sewer_Projects.pdf). Appropriate forms and information for submitting a PTI may be found at <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/pti/SanitarySewerExtensions.aspx>.
2. We discussed that both of these plants will be abandoned once you are connected to sanitary sewers currently under construction the Austinburg area. Please notify this office once you have connected to sanitary sewers and have abandoned the above onsite treatment facilities, so that an inspection can be conducted by this office. Until your NPDES permits are terminated, you must report to the eDMR system, even if there is no flow from your facility.

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  
Marlene Knopsnider, Rock Creek, OH  
Barry French, Ashtabula County Department of Environmental Services

File: SP/Ashtabula/Austinburg Twp/Grand River Academy (3PT00115)

June 2008

## Permit-to-Install Requirements For Sanitary Sewer Projects

Anyone who plans to construct a wastewater collection, conveyance, storage, treatment or disposal facility must apply for and receive a wastewater permit-to-install (PTI) from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) before beginning construction.

This includes facilities that handle wastewater from businesses, industries, commercial operations and anything other than one-, two- or three-family dwellings. If multiple homes or buildings connect to a common sewer or disposal system, a PTI is needed for the common sewer or disposal system.

This fact sheet is provided to clarify at what point in the sewer system a PTI is needed.

### Definitions

#### ***From Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 4101:3 - Ohio Plumbing Code***

**Building** - Any structure consisting of foundations, walls, columns, girders, beams, floors, and roof or combination of any number of these parts, with or without other parts or appurtenances.

**Building Drain** - That part of the lowest piping of a drainage system that receives the discharge from soil, waste and other drainage pipes inside and that extends 30 inches (762 mm) beyond the walls of the building and conveys the drainage to the building sewer.

**Building Sewer** - That part of the drainage system that extends from the end of the building drain and conveys the discharge to a public sewer, private sewer, individual sewage disposal system or other point of disposal.

#### ***From Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 6111.01***

**Disposal System** - A system for disposing of sewage, industrial waste or other liquid wastes, and includes sewerage systems and treatment works.

**Sewerage System** - Pipelines or conduits, pumping stations and force mains and all other constructions, devices, appurtenances and facilities for collecting or conducting water-borne sewage, industrial waste or other wastes to a point of disposal or treatment but does not include building drains and subdrains, building sewers and building storm sewers.

### Permit Regulations

#### ***From Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 3745-42-02***

**Permit to install and plan approvals for disposal systems** - Except as provided in paragraphs (B) to (D)(3) of this rule, no person shall cause, permit or allow the installation of a new disposal system or cause, permit or allow the modification of a disposal system without first obtaining an individual permit to install, a general permit to install or plan approval from the director.

With regard to disposal systems, application for a permit to install shall include plans for the disposal system and issuance of a permit to install shall constitute approval of plans for the disposal of waste and for the disposal system pursuant to sections 6111.44 and 6111.45 of the Revised Code.

### Where can I get more information?

If you have questions or need more information, contact Ohio EPA's Division of Surface Water at your local district office. For district office boundaries and contact information, see [www.epa.state.oh.us/](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/).

