



**Environmental  
Protection Agency**

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

September 20, 2012

RE: GENEVA CITY WWTP  
GENEVA CITY, ASHTABULA COUNTY  
OHIO EPA PERMIT 3PD00014  
COMPLIANCE INSPECTION EVALUATION

Mr. Gary Hydinger, Superintendent  
City of Geneva Wastewater Department  
44 North Avenue West  
Geneva, OH 44041

Dear Mr. Hydinger:

On September 12, 2012, a site inspection was conducted at the above referenced facility at 44 North Avenue West, City of Geneva, Ashtabula County. The inspection was conducted by John Schmidt of this office. Gary Hydinger, Greg Copeland, Brendon Averill, and Beverly Hoffman represented the City of Geneva on 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 and in conjunction with the renewal of said permit. A reconnaissance inspection was also conducted of the City's industrial wastewater treatment program. The last compliance inspection was conducted on October 5, 2011.

The system consists of grit removal, raw sewage pump station, primary settling (clarifiers), rock trickling filters with recirculating pumps, final settling (clarifiers), nitrification towers with recirculation, rapid sand filtration, chlorine disinfection, and sulfur dioxide dechlorination. Alum is fed for phosphate control. Chlorine is added to the waste stream prior to rapid sand filtration to discourage biological growth in the rapid sand filters, and the chlorine contact tank is located following rapid sand filtration. Sludge management consists of primary and secondary settling tanks, primary digestion and secondary digestion in series, and dewatering with a belt filter press. Dried sludge is stored in an old sludge drying bed and sold as a Class A sludge. As a backup, sludge drying beds are available as an alternate to the belt filter press. The facility discharges to Cowles Creek adjacent to the west side of the facility. Generators provide backup power to the entire facility.

**Observations and Notations**

Following are observations and notations made during the inspection:

1. The overall condition of the treatment plant during this inspection was satisfactory with the plant well kept. Grit is containerized for disposal at a solid waste landfill.

2. The log book, copy of the permit, and maintenance records are maintained at the facility and found compliant with OAC 3745-7-09.
3. Alum is fed to aid in phosphorus control. Chemicals are supplied by USALCO.
4. The operation of the rock tricking filters was satisfactory. They are cleaned weekly.
5. Primary and secondary clarifier effluent troughs were reasonably clean and there was no scum around the effluent baffle or the trough. Weirs and troughs are cleaned weekly.
6. The nitrification towers appeared to be operating as designed. An issue noted with the towers is deteriorating concrete at the air inlet vents at the bottom of the towers. This is attributed to corrosion from splashing wastewater. Geneva expects to conduct repairs in September and October.
7. The effluent discharged from the sand filters during the inspection was clear and free of color and turbidity. The wastewater percolated freely through the sand indicating that the beds were not clogged.
8. Chemicals were noted in the chlorination and sulfur dioxide feed systems. The chlorine contact tank was operating as designed.
9. Influent and effluent composite samples are collected with a flow proportional sampler. The proper temperature was noted in the samplers.
10. The new laboratory was in use. The WWTP laboratory performs monitoring of CBOD, suspended solids, pH, phosphorus, chlorine, sulfur dioxide, dissolved oxygen, and ammonia nitrogen. Geneva contracts with Northcoast Laboratories for volatile organic compounds (VOCs), metals, oil and grease, nitrate-nitrite, bacteria (E. Coli), and quality assurance samples from the WWTP laboratory. Whole effluent toxicity is performed by Enviroscience Laboratories, and mercury sampling is conducted by Mercury One.
11. The final effluent was clear and was mixing well with the receiving stream. The discharge was clearer than the receiving water upstream of the discharge.

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

A review of the electronic Discharge self-Monitoring Reports (eDMRs) received by Ohio EPA for the period September 1, 2011 through September 1, 2012 indicates apparent noncompliance of the terms and conditions of your NPDES permit. Specific instances of noncompliance are as follows:

#### **Limit Violations**

No limit violations are noted for the time period reviewed:

Reporting Violations

Ohio EPA notes that CBOD sampling was not conducted at the prescribed frequency the week of November 27, 2011. Geneva provided an explanation as to the cause of the violation on December 5, 2011, along with measures to ensure that it is not repeated. No additional information is needed to respond to the violation.

Compliance Schedule Violations

No compliance schedule violations were noted for the period reviewed.

SSO Reporting

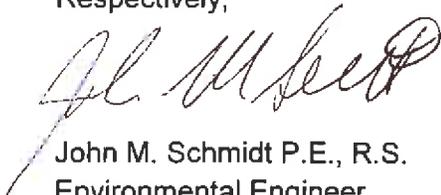
The 2011 SSO report was received on March 7, 2012, with a revision submitted on July 5, 2012. No SSOs were reported for 2011, with nine occurrences of basement backup reported.

Industrial Pretreatment Program

A limited scope pretreatment program inspection was conducted by completing the reconnaissance inspection checklist. Geneva has submitted revisions to its significant industrial user (SIU) ordinance per Ohio EPA comments from the 2010 audit as outlined in the October 27, 2010 letter. The SIU list is limited only to Nordic Air. Geneva has inspected its SIU in 2011. No septage is accepted. Geneva has had no interference from its IUs. The SIU has not been timely in data submission, and Geneva has notified the entity by issuing NOV's.

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

ec: Donna Kniss, Ohio EPA, SW, NEDO

File: Municipal/Geneva City WWTP (Ashtabula Co.)/PC