



**Environmental
Protection Agency**

Mike DeWine, Governor
Mark Taylor, Lt. Governor
David T. Miller, Director

September 19, 2012

Mr. Mel Kurtz
Quasar Energy Group
7624 Riverview Rd.
Cleveland, OH 44141

**Re: Carroll Storage Lagoons
NPDES Permit 4PS00015/ OH0106062
Reconnaissance Inspection
Notice of Violation
Fairfield County**

Dear Mr. Kurtz:

On September 18, 2012, a Reconnaissance Inspection was conducted at the Carroll Storage Lagoons. Present for the inspection were Jacob Howdysshell, Ohio EPA, Central Office, Division of Surface Water and Kelly Thiel and myself of the Ohio EPA, Central District Office, Division of Surface Water.

The purpose of the inspection was to evaluate compliance with the terms and conditions of your NPDES permit and to evaluate the operation and maintenance of the lagoons. The following items were noted during the inspection and precipitated this Notice of Violation.

- ❖ The lagoons were nearly filled to overflowing with biosolids. There was literally no room to accommodate the storage of any more biosolids (not to mention heavy precipitation) without the distinct possibility of an overflow (Figures 1 and 3). Quasar shall immediately cease all delivery of biosolids to the Carroll Storage Lagoons. In addition, land application of the biosolids currently in the lagoons shall commence as soon as practicable in order to remove enough biosolids to provide for a minimum of one foot (12 inches) of freeboard in both of the lagoons. A minimum freeboard of one foot shall be maintained in the lagoons at all times henceforth. It is expected that the minimum freeboard of one foot will be attained by October 19, 2012. Please contact Paul Vandermeer on or before this date to confirm that the one foot freeboard has been attained.
- ❖ There were numerous cracks and holes found in the central portion of the eastern berm (Figure 2). The company shall provide for an inspection of the berm within 45 days of the receipt of this letter detailing the nature of the cracks and holes and whether or not these might pose a hazard (i.e., leaks, berm failure, etc.).
- ❖ A large amount of plastic was noted on the margins of the lagoons (Figure 3). In particular, shredded utensils, bottle caps, and other manufactured inerts were abundant. Manufactured inerts are considered solid waste and should not be part of a beneficial use application. Manufactured inerts must be disposed of in a licensed solid waste disposal facility.

- ❖ Housekeeping at the loading and unloading areas is unsatisfactory. The truck loader appears to be drained after use with biosolids deposited on the ground surface (Figure 4). Additionally, the flexible hose feeding the loader is left full and could pose a leakage hazard. This is unacceptable. When the loader unit and hose are drained, they must be drained back into the lagoons and not onto the ground. The company shall prepare a plan within 45 days of the receipt of this letter outlining appropriate measures to ensure that biosolids are not deposited onto the ground.
- ❖ The fencing on the east side of the lagoon is open in two locations and poses a safety concern, especially with the close proximity of U.S. 33 and the high volumes of traffic it carries (Figure 5). These openings must be secured to prevent access by unauthorized persons.
- ❖ Samples for the June quarterly report were not submitted to Ohio EPA. The company shall provide an explanation as to why samples were not obtained in accordance with the NPDES permit.

Please provide a response to the above action items to Paul Vandermeer and Jacob Howdyshell within 60 days of the receipt of this letter. If you have any questions or comments concerning the enclosed inspection report, please contact me at (614) 728-3854 or e-mail at paul.vandermeer@epa.ohio.gov.

Sincerely,



Paul L. Vandermeer
Environmental Specialist
Compliance and Enforcement Unit
Division of Surface Water
Central District Office

c: File Copy; Mayor and Council, Village of Carroll

ec: Paul L. Vandermeer, Kelly Thiel, Jacob Howdyshell

NPDES Compliance Inspection Report

SECTION A: NATIONAL DATA SYSTEM CODING				
Permit #	NPDES #	Inspection Type	Inspector	Facility Type
4PS00015	OH0106062	RI	S	2
Inspection Date	Entry Time	Exit Time	Notice of Violation	Significant Non-Compliance
9/18/2012	9:35 am	10:15 am	Yes	No

SECTION B: FACILITY DATA	
Name and Location of Facility Inspected	Permit Effective Date
Central Ohio BioEnergy, LLC Carroll Storage Lagoons U.S. Route 33 Carroll, OH	9/1/2007
	Permit Expiration Date
	8/31/2012
Name(s) and Title(s) of On-Site Representatives	Phone Numbers
Name and Title of Responsible Official	Phone Number
Mr. Mel Kurtz, Quasar Energy Group	(216) 986-9999

SECTION C: AREAS EVALUATED DURING INSPECTION		
Key: S = Satisfactory, M = Marginal, U = Unsatisfactory, N = Not Evaluated		
M	NPDES Compliance	June quarterly samples were not reported (see attachment).
U	Operations & Maintenance	Little to no freeboard in lagoons, east central lagoon berm cracked and holed, possible issues with integrity. Spill or release risk is high.
U	Facility Site Review	Noticeable quantity of "inerts" on lagoon margins, sludge spillage around site apparent, housekeeping unsatisfactory.
N	Collection System	
N	Flow Measurement	
N	Receiving Waters	
N	Laboratory	

Comments:

Signatures			
	9/19/12		9/19/12
Paul L. Vandermeer, Inspector Compliance & Enforcement Division of Surface Water Central District Office	Date	Mike Gallaway, Reviewer Section Manager Division of Surface Water Central District Office	Date

Compliance Data for Carroll Storage Lagoons between 11/1/2010 to 9/1/2012

Summary

Permit Limit Violations: 0

Permit Code Violations: 0

Permit Frequency Violations: 14

Compliance Schedule Violations: 0

Frequency Violations						
Reporting Period	Station	Parameter	Sample Frequency	Expected	Reported	Violation Date
June 2012	581	Nitrogen Kjeldahl, Tot	1/Quarter	1	0	6/1/2012
June 2012	581	Phosphorus, Total In S	1/Quarter	1	0	6/1/2012
June 2012	581	Arsenic, Total In Slud	1/Quarter	1	0	6/1/2012
June 2012	581	Cadmium, Total In Slud	1/Quarter	1	0	6/1/2012
June 2012	581	Copper, Total In Sludge	1/Quarter	1	0	6/1/2012
June 2012	581	Lead, Total In Sludge	1/Quarter	1	0	6/1/2012
June 2012	581	Nickel, Total In Sludge	1/Quarter	1	0	6/1/2012
June 2012	581	Zinc, Total In Sludge	1/Quarter	1	0	6/1/2012
June 2012	581	Selenium, Total In Slu	1/Quarter	1	0	6/1/2012
June 2012	581	Mercury, Total In Slud	1/Quarter	1	0	6/1/2012
June 2012	581	Molybdenum In Sludge	1/Quarter	1	0	6/1/2012
June 2012	581	Ammonia (NH3) In Sludg	1/Quarter	1	0	6/1/2012
June 2012	581	Potassium In Sludge	1/Quarter	1	0	6/1/2012
June 2012	581	Fecal Coliform in Slud	1/Quarter	1	0	6/1/2012

*The facility has 1 missing data reports.

Station	Required Report Period	DMR Received
581	November 2011	No

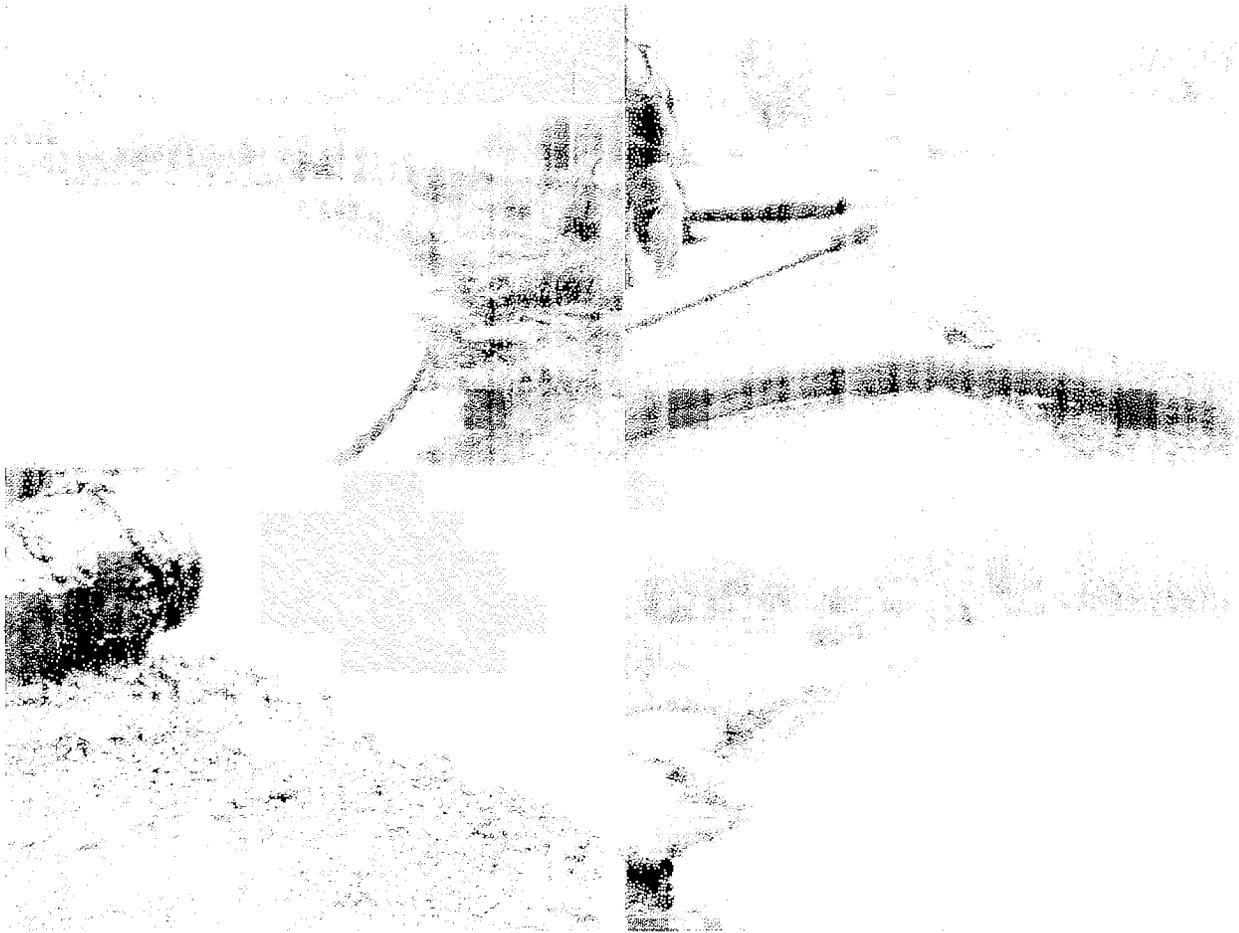


Figure 1. The acute lack of freeboard in the sludge storage lagoons leased by Central Ohio BioEnergy, LLC poses a high risk for a significant or even catastrophic spill. The photos in the upper and lower right show that sludge is nearly leaking over the edge of the lagoon down the unloading driveway. The company must cease delivery of biosolids to the lagoons and begin drawing down the lagoons to allow for at least 1 foot of freeboard to ensure that biosolids do not escape.

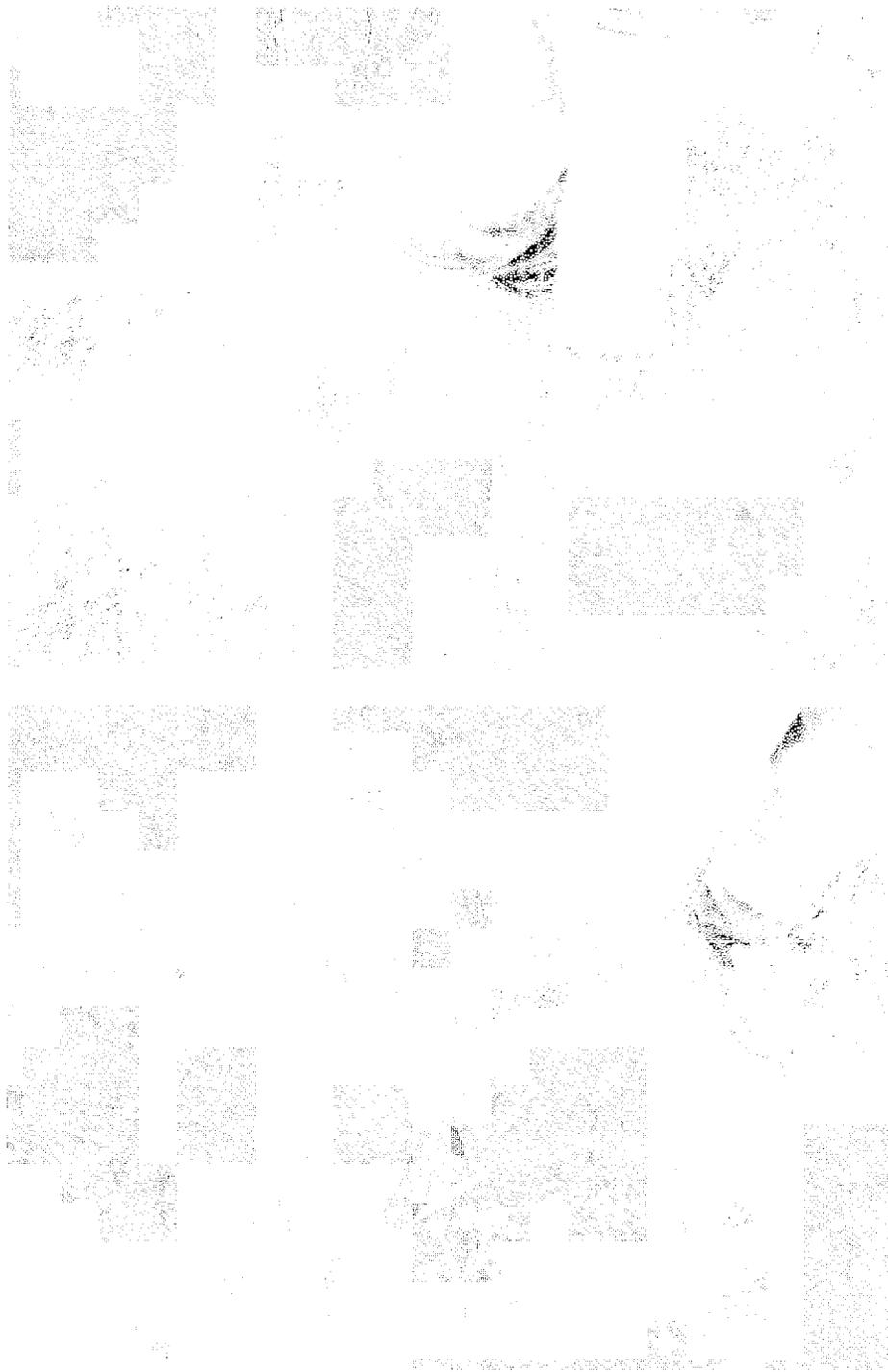


Figure 2. The red arrows in the photographs above indicate large holes or cracks in the central part of the eastern berm of the lagoons. One hole measured at least 1 foot in depth and at least 8 inches in width. These holes and cracks were numerous and could be indicative of a problem with the integrity of the berm and the containment of the enclosed biosolids. Lack of freeboard in the lagoons could be exacerbating this situation by adding additional stresses to the berm.



Figure 3. The close proximity of the lagoon wastes to these pipe structures may promote the escape of biosolids to the environment. Additional freeboard of at least 1 foot must be affected in order to preclude such an event. Also note the large volume of plastics littering the margins of the lagoons. Land application of "inerts" is not appropriate and must cease.



Figure 4. Please note the dried sludge on the ground adjacent to the black drainage spigot on the loader. It appears that sludge is drained from the unit following the loading of a tanker truck. Dumping of biosolids to the ground is unacceptable. Additionally, it was noted that the large flexible blue pipe used to convey biosolids from the lagoon to the loader was full. Escape of biosolids from this unit is a distinct possibility should a leak develop in the pipe or at a joint.



Figure 5. The large opening in the fence offers unencumbered access to the lagoons by anyone, especially with the proximity of U.S. 33. This could present a significant safety hazard for a passerby.