



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

November 9, 2012

Re: Pretreatment
Tastee Apple, Inc.
Village of Newcomerstown
Sampling Inspection
Permit No. ODP00025*CP

Mr. Jerry Herbert, Vice President of Manufacturing
Tastee Apple, Inc.
60810 County Road 9
Newcomerstown, Ohio 43832

Dear Mr. Herbert:

On October 15, 2012, Ohio EPA conducted a sampling inspection at Tastee Apple, Inc. The inspection was conducted to evaluate the facility's compliance with federal and state pretreatment regulations and its Indirect Discharge Permit (IDP). You represented Tastee Apple during the inspection. Results of Ohio EPA's effluent samples will be forwarded to you when they become available.

Based on the inspection and a review of monitoring reports submitted between January 2012 and July 2012, Tastee Apple appeared to be in substantial compliance with state and federal pretreatment regulations at the time of the inspection.

General Facility Description:

Tastee Apple produces apple cider, several caramel apple products, and chocolate apples. Caramel apples are only produced during the fall. Chocolate apples may be produced at various times during the year for holidays, with production greatest in December. Heaviest cider production is in the fall and early winter, and is expected to end in December this year and begin again in August of next year. Average daily flow during the 2011 caramel apple season was roughly 12,500 gpd on production days.

Main Building:

The cider line processes include deleafing, washing, scrubbing, rinsing, apple pressing, clarification, pasteurizing, chilling, and jugging. Wastewater is generated from apple washing, rinsing, cleaning in place (CIP) of cider making equipment, and floor cleaning.

Waste waters from the cider lines are discharged to Outfall 001 after pretreatment using the equipment described in the section labeled pretreatment.

Caramel Building:

The caramel apple building processes consist of apple cleaning and deleafing, coating with caramel, nuts, coconut, chocolate and/or colored sprinkles, and packaging. Wastewater is generated from apple wash and deleaf and cleanup of equipment and process areas. Waste waters from the caramel and chocolate apple lines are routed to an oil/water separator before discharge to Outfall 002.

Pretreatment:

Cider production wastewaters, including clean in place and apple pit water, are routed through a rotary screen then flow to the 1500 gallon pH adjustment tank. After neutralization the wastewater flows to the Number 2 Grease Interceptor, then discharges to the Newcomerstown sanitary sewer via Outfall 001, which is equipped with a refrigerated sampler. Continuous flow and pH monitoring are provided at Outfall 001.

Based on recommendations by Ohio EPA and results of a trial season without use of the equalization, aeration and clarification units of the pretreatment system, Tastee Apple discontinued use of these treatment units. They proved expensive to maintain and not very effective in removing pollutants. The system removed roughly 50% of TSS, but only about 12% of BOD5. When properly operated, the Newcomerstown WWTP is able to treat the wastewater adequately without the need to pretreat Tastee Apple's wastewater.

Caramel Apple Building wastewaters flow to a grease interceptor prior to discharging separately to the Newcomerstown sewer via Outfall 002.

Tastee Apple is regulated as a noncategorical significant industrial user by Ohio EPA.

Effluent Limit Exceedances:

Tastee Apple reported the following exceedances of its IDP limits between January and June 2012:

Station	Reporting Code	Parameter	Limit Type	Limit	Reported Value	Violation Date
002	00550	Oil and Grease, Total	1D Conc	100	117	1/26/2012
002	00402	pH, Minimum	1D Conc	5.5	4.75	3/22/2012
002	00402	pH, Minimum	1D Conc	5.5	3.87	3/29/2012

Comments:

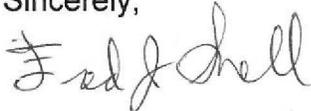
All of the effluent limit exceedances reported during the past year occurred at Outfall 002, the discharge from the caramel building. In reviewing recent effluent reports, it appears that the pH limit exceedances usually occur during periods of sporadic production and very low flows.

Ohio EPA recommends that Tastee Apple experiment with the addition of clean water and small amounts of caustic upstream of the interceptor prior to and during production days during the sporadic production periods in the upcoming year. It is likely that the cause of the exceedances is septicity in the interceptor due to the intermittent and low flows during these periods.

Ohio EPA records show conflicting information on the volume of the grease interceptor serving the caramel building. Please review your service records and notify Ohio EPA of the correct volume of the interceptor. Please also provide photographs of the interceptor interior obtained when the unit is empty after pumping.

Please respond to this letter in writing within 30 days of receipt. 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: Ken Felton, Supt. of Water & Wastewater, Village of Newcomerstown
c: Pretreatment Unit, DSW, CO



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Southeast District Office

Pretreatment Compliance Inspection Report

Section A: National Data System Coding					
Permit #	NPDES #	Month/Day/Year	Inspection Type	Inspector	Facility Type
ODP00025*CP	OH0026689	October 15, 2012	5	S	2

Section B: Facility Data		
Name and Location of Facility Inspected	Entry Time	Permit Effective Date
Tastee Apple, Inc. 60810 County Road 9 Newcomerstown, Ohio 43832	11:30 a.m.	June 1, 2007
	Exit Time	Permit Expiration Date
	1:30 p.m.	May 31, 2012
Name(s) and Title(s) of On-Site Representative(s)	Phone Number(s)	
Jerry Herbert, Vice President of Manufacturing	(740) 498-8316, Ext. 214	
Name, Address, and Title of Responsible Official	Phone Number	
Greg Hackenbracht, CEO	(740) 498-8316	

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

Section D: Summary of Findings (attach additional sheets if necessary)			
See attached letter.			
Inspector		Reviewer	
Date		Date	
11/8/12		11/9/12	
Fred J. Snell Division of Surface Water Southeast District Office		Jennifer M. Witte Compliance & Enforcement Supervisor Division of Surface Water Southeast District Office	