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

April 9, 2013

RE: GEAUGA COUNTY
MUNSON ELEMENTARY
NPDES#3PT00140*AD

HAMBDEN ELEMENTARY
NPDES #3PT00060*BD

CERTIFIED LETTER

Chardon Local Schools
Attn: Mr. Joseph Bergant II, Superintendent
428 North Street
Chardon, OH 44024

Dear Mr. Bergant:

On April 4, 2013, this writer, along with Dean Stoll of this office, conducted inspections of the sewage treatment plants serving the above referenced facilities. Representing the school during the inspections was Mr. Chris May. This office also met with both Mr. May and Mr. Dana Stearns at the Chardon School Board of Education offices following the inspection at each elementary school.

The inspections were a follow up to the October 12, 2012, inspections conducted by this office at the elementary schools. The intent of the inspections was to evaluate the operations and maintenance condition of each treatment system and to review any work completed on each treatment system since our last inspection. This office was also reviewing compliance with respect to the terms and conditions of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for each facility. During the inspection, the operation and maintenance records were evaluated at each school.

NPDES PERMIT COMPLIANCE

A summary of the wastewater treatment plant monitoring and reporting violations for the period of January 1, 2011 through March 1, 2013, is shown below:

Discharge monitoring violations:

Munson Elementary:

Permit No	Reporting Period	Station	Reporting Code	Parameter	Limit Type	Limit	Reported Value	Violation Date
3PT00140*AD	December 2012	001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3	30D Conc	3.0	34.	12/1/2012
3PT00140*AD	December 2012	001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3	7D Conc	4.5	34.	12/1/2012
3PT00140*AD	December 2012	001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3	30D Qty	0.079	.29599	12/1/2012
3PT00140*AD	December 2012	001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3	7D Qty	0.120	.29599	12/1/2012

- Per the CAU's recommendations and help, the air return pump lines from the settling tank to the aeration tank were improved. Valves were added that will assist the operators in cleaning out the settling tank chambers.
- The scheduled work to be completed includes: improving air volume to the aeration tanks by increasing horse power to the pumps, adding de-chlorination and adding timers to the air pumps.

The review of the work completed at the Munson Elementary WWTP revealed the system to be in improved operation and maintenance condition. The air circulation within the aeration tank appeared satisfactory with adequate rollover noted. The contents of the aeration tank were a chocolate brown and no septic odor was present. The sludge return line was in operation and returning solids from the settling tank. The settling tank portion of the treatment system contained some solids on the surface of the tank. The influent baffle contained a thicker solids and the effluent weir and baffle contained some solids. The skimmer was visible within the tank.

The surface sand filters were completely rebuilt. The sand media appeared to be satisfactory although the depth appeared to be very low. Please be advised, the Ohio EPA recommends sand filters be provided with 18-inches of approved filter sand. The sand filters contained cleanouts to the underdrains which were just recently installed. During the inspection, the level of the cleanouts was such that they could be considered overflow bypasses to the sand filters. These cleanouts should be removed to eliminate the potential for the sand filters to be bypassed (in the event the filters are flooded and overflow).

The chlorine contact tank was intact and appeared somewhat cloudy due to leftover sand and sediments from the sand filter work completed.

The final effluent appeared clear. The receiving stream contained sands and sediments that had been flushed out of the WWTP. As was mentioned at the time of the inspection, any sediments or sand that is to be flushed out of the WWTP must first be rerouted to the sand filters. Any direct discharge of these sands or sediments is a violation of ORC 6111.

There is a disturbed area located adjacent to the WWTP which is leftover from the sanitary sewer evaluation work completed. This disturbed area must be reseeded to prevent sediments from eroding into the receiving stream which is located less than fifty feet away.

HAMBDEN ELEMENTARY

The improvements to the WWTP include the following:

- Installed two new pumps for the equalizing tank and corrected the controls. Both air pumps were serviced and filters and belts were added. Diffusers and valves were also added for better operation of the flow equalization tank.
- The school began regular testing of the plant and overall operation, installed new grates over the tanks.

3) No later than July 1, 2013, Chardon Local Schools must effectively eliminate the cleanouts which are located in the surface sand filters at Munson Elementary WWTP.

To avoid the schools being refereed to our Legal section for an enforcement action, you must maintain the above noted recommendations and timelines. If Chardon Local Schools finds any of the above recommendations or timelines unreasonable, you must respond, in writing, no later than 10 days from receipt of this letter.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this letter, please contact this office at (330) 963-1299.

Respectfully,

Laura A. Weber, P.E.
Environmental Engineer
Division of Surface Water

LAW:bo

pc: Geauga County Health Department: Attn: Dave Sage

File: Semi-Public/Geauga/Hambden Twp/Hambden Elementary
Semi-Public/Geauga/Munson Twp/Munson Elementary

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