



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

Certified Mail #91 7108 2133 3932 1838 1508

May 24, 2013

Stephen J. Sauer, Owner
SunSprout Farms of Central Ohio LLC
151 Amazon Place
Columbus, OH 43214

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

**Re: Sunsprout Farms of Central Ohio LLC
NPDES Permit 4IN00051/ OH0105864
Reconnaissance Inspection
Franklin County**

Dear Mr. Sauer:

This correspondence serves as Notice of Violation for failure to collect and submit effluent monitoring data in accordance with the terms and conditions of your effective NPDES permit.

On May 16, 2013, a Reconnaissance Inspection was conducted at the Sunsprout Farms of Central Ohio facility in Columbus, Ohio. Present for the inspection were yourself representing Sunsprout Farms and myself of the Ohio EPA, Central District Office, Division of Surface Water. The purpose of the inspection was to discuss the terms and conditions of the effective NPDES permit, review the violations that have occurred since the current permit became effective in September 2011 and to explain the consequence associated with continued non-compliance.

Please refer to the Summary of Findings and Comments section of this report for additional information regarding the inspection. This office has attempted to return this facility to compliance voluntarily without success and it appears that formal enforcement action will now be necessary. Please be advised this this correspondence serves as the first step in the formal enforcement process against Sunsprout Farms of Central Ohio. Continued non-compliance shall result an escalation of the process through the issuance of Director's Final Findings and Orders with a financial penalty.

Stephen J. Sauer, Owner
SunSprout Farms of Central Ohio LLC
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If you have any questions or comments concerning the enclosed inspection report,
please contact me at (614) 728-3848 or e-mail at mike.sapp@epa.state.oh.us.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Sapp", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael Sapp
Compliance and Enforcement Unit
Division of Surface Water
Central District Office

cc: Michael Sapp

MS/nsm Sunsprout Farms 13

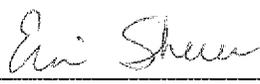
NPDES Compliance Inspection Report

SECTION A: NATIONAL DATA SYSTEM CODING				
Permit #	NPDES #	Inspection Type	Inspector	Facility Type
4IN00051	OH0105864	RI	S	Industrial
Inspection Date	Entry Time	Exit Time	Notice of Violation	Significant Non-Compliance
5/16/2013	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Yes	No

SECTION B: FACILITY DATA	
Name and Location of Facility Inspected	Permit Effective Date
SunSprout Farms of Central Ohio LLC 2625 McGuffey Road Columbus, Ohio 43211	9/1/2011
	Permit Expiration Date
	8/31/2016
Name(s) and Title(s) of On-Site Representatives	Phone Numbers
Stephen J. Sauer, Owner	(614) 262-3332
Name and Title of Responsible Official	Phone Number
Stephen J. Sauer, Owner	(614) 262-3332

SECTION C: AREAS EVALUATED DURING INSPECTION		
Key: S = Satisfactory, M = Marginal, U = Unsatisfactory, N = Not Evaluated		
U	NPDES Compliance	Failure to collect and submit eDMR data.
N	Operations & Maintenance	
N	Facility Site Review	
N	Collection System	
N	Flow Measurement	
N	Receiving Waters	
N	Laboratory	

Comments:

Signatures	
 5/21/13	 5/22/13
Michael Sapp, Inspector Date Compliance & Enforcement Division of Surface Water District Office	Erin Sherer, Reviewer Date Compliance & Enforcement Supervisor Division of Surface Water District Office

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Sunsprout Farms of Central Ohio
4IN00051 - OH0105864

General

Sunsprout Farms is involved in the hydroponic production of bean, alfalfa, wheat, radish, broccoli and clover sprouts. The facility produces approximately 18,000 – 20,000 pounds of sprouts per week. Bean sprouts are produced by placing bean seeds in stainless steel vats where they are periodically watered. Seeds grow to sprouts in approximately four days. The water applied to the bean sprouts is directed to a floor sump before it is pumped to the storm sewer outside of the facility. Water is supplied by the City of Columbus. The bean seeds are pre-soaked for a day in a mild bleach solution, which is subsequently directed to floor sump via a diverter valve, and sent to the sanitary sewer. A mild coconut oil based detergent is used to wash the dry seeds prior to soaking.

Alfalfa sprouts are produced in large rotating bins that are exposed to light. Water is misted onto the seeds before it enters a floor drain to the sanitary sewer. The floor drain is equipped with a screen to prevent plant material from entering the sewer. The growing rooms for the bean sprouts and the other sprout varieties are washed down 2-3 times per week. Washdown waters are also conveyed to the floor sump where a butterfly valve is used to manually redirect these flows to the City of Columbus sanitary sewer.

At the time of the inspection, the following general observations were made with operational and monitoring practices at the facility:

1. The reissued NPDES permit, which became effective in September 2011, modified the monitoring frequency for effluent parameters from monthly to quarterly. Sunsprout Farms failed to either collect or submit data in three of the six quarterly sampling months since the permit became effective in September 2011. Please be advised that quarterly sampling is required in the months of March, June, August and December. The corresponding eDMR reporting deadlines are April 20, July, 20, August 20 and January 20. Failure to collect and submit eDMR data is a violation of your permit.
2. The August 2012 eDMR failed to include a value for flow. A flow value in gallons per day is required once a quarter.
3. The next quarterly sampling month is June 2013. The June 2013 is required to be submitted on or before July 20, 2013.
4. Sunsprout Farms is sent certified letters following months in which no eDMR data is received. These letters request that you notify our office and take corrective actions to resolve violations or reporting deficiencies. Doing nothing or not

responding to these letters is unacceptable. If Director's Final Finding and Orders are issued the recalcitrance demonstrated by Sunsprout Farms will factor into the calculated financial penalty.

5. This office has attempted to voluntarily return this facility to compliance with the monitoring and reporting requirements in the NPDES. These efforts have not been successful. Consequently, this correspondence serves as the initial step in the formal enforcement process. The next step, which will be undertaken if additional violations occur, will involve the issuance of Director's Final Findings and Orders with a financial penalty.

Compliance Data for Sunsprout Farms of Central Ohio LLC between 9/1/2011 to 5/1/2013

Summary

Permit Effluent Limit Violations: 0
 Permit Effluent Code Violations: 0
 Permit Effluent Frequency Violations: * 1
 Compliance Schedule Violations: 0

Frequency Violation						
Reporting Period	Station	Parameter	Sample Frequency	Expected	Reported	Violation Date
August 2012	001	Flow Rate	1/Quarter	1	0	8/1/2012

*The facility has 2 missing data reports.

Station	Required Report Period	DMR Received
001	December 2011	No
001	December 2012	No