



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

May 30, 2013

RE: LORAIN COUNTY RESOURCE
RECOVERY COMPLEX
PERMIT NO: 3PR00394*BD
LORAIN COUNTY
OBERLIN

Mr. Dan Schoewe
Operations Manager
Lorain County Resource Recovery Complex
43650 Oberlin-Elyria Road
Oberlin, Ohio 44074

Dear Mr. Schoewe

On May 16, 2013, an inspection of the above referenced facility's wastewater treatment system was conducted. The facility was represented by you. The purpose of the inspection was to evaluate the operation and maintenance of the treatment plant along with the facility's compliance status with respect to the terms and conditions of the above-referenced National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

During the inspection, the following items were noted/discussed:

1. Uni-Tech Environmental Services Inc. is no longer being contracted to operate the wastewater treatment plant.
2. Quest Consultants is currently being contracted to operate the wastewater treatment system.
3. Ohio EPA records indicate that Quest Consultants began submitting the monthly discharge monitoring data for the month of March 2012.
4. The plant design of the wastewater treatment system is 8,000 gallons per day.
5. In accordance with Ohio Administrative Code 3745-7-04, the sewage treatment facility is classified as a Class A facility. The classification requires that the Operator of Record be physically present at the treatment works two days per week for a minimum of one hour per week.
6. Ohio EPA has on record that the current Operator of Record is Mr. William Albrecht.

7. Ohio operator certification rules require that a field log book be maintained at the treatment plant. The log book should document the time the Operator of Record is present at the treatment works along with the maintenance duties being performed at the treatment plant. This requirement is being met.
8. The treatment plant is equipped with a dual blower/motor system. The east blower/motor unit was currently in operation. The weight loaded pressure relief valve was tested and found to be operational. The west blower/motor unit was tested and found to be operational. However, the weight loaded pressure relief valve was found to be nonfunctional.
9. The treatment plant was receiving good aeration.
10. The contents of the aeration tank were medium brown in color.
11. No odor was present at the treatment plant.
12. The sludge return line was functioning and returning clear water. The sludge return line should be returning medium brown water. The side walls of the settling tank may need to be scraped down.
13. The skimmer return line was not functioning properly. The line was only returning a trickle of clear water. The top of the skimmer should be adjusted to approximately a quarter of an inch below the liquid surface when the blowers are in operation.
14. The entire surface of the settling tank was covered with solids. The solids should be removed and properly disposed.
15. The weirs and the trough in the settling tank were covered with solids deposition. The weirs and trough should be scraped down or hosed off on a regular basis.
16. The weir was short circuiting. Water was observed flowing between the trough and the v-notch weir. This problem needs to be corrected immediately so the water flows over the v-notch weir.
17. Scum build-up/ solids deposition was also present behind the baffle in the settling tank. This material should be removed on a regular basis.
18. Both dosing pumps were tested and confirmed to be functional. The wastewater being dosed on the sand filter was clear.
19. The surface sand filter consisted of two cells. A minimal amount of vegetation was present in each bed. It should be noted that both cells should be maintained free of vegetation and sludge at all times. All material removed from the cells should be properly disposed at a licensed solid waste landfill. Placing this material in the facility's dumpster is acceptable.
20. The splash pad on the south cell needs to be leveled. It appears that only approximately 25% of the cell is being utilized. Both the filter media and the splash pad should be level to assure that the entire surface of the cell is utilized when the cell is dosed.

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21. The daily flow volume is measured by using elapsed time meters on the dosing pumps. Monthly discharge monitoring reports indicate that from June 1, 2012 through April 30, 2013, the treatment plant has been consistently discharging 500 gallons per day. Please confirm that the discharge flow volume is accurate.
22. The chlorination dispensing tubes were adequately stocked. The dispensing tubes should be continuously stocked with the appropriate tablets during summer. Summer is defined as the period from May^{1st} through October 3^{1st}.
23. The lift station pumps were not tested. Both pumps should be tested to confirm that they are operational.
24. The discharge to the evaporation pond was visually clear and appeared to be having no impact.
25. The effluent sample is analyzed by the City of Norwalk.
26. The flow rate, color, odor, and turbidity readings are taken plant personnel.

This office has recently reviewed your self-monitoring reports covering the period October 1, 2011 through April 30, 2013, for the referenced facility. **Our review indicates there were no violations of the terms and conditions of your NPDES permit.**

Please notify this office in writing, within 14 days receipt of this letter, of your intentions concerning items 8, 12-17, 20, 21, and 23. You are directed to contact this office for a follow-up inspection once all of the above items have been corrected.

Should you have any comments or questions concerning this letter, please feel free to call me at (330) 963-1143.

Respectfully,



Michael W. Stevens
Environmental Engineer
Division of Surface Water

MWS:bo

