



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

May 24, 2013

RE: GENEVA SCHOOLS, CORK ELEMENTARY
NPDES PERMIT NO. 3PT00136
HARPERSFIELD TWP, ASHTABULA COUNTY
COMPLIANCE INSPECTION EVALUATION

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Mary Zappitelli, Superintendent
Geneva Area City School District
135 South Eagle Street
Geneva, OH 44041

Dear Ms. Zappitelli:

On May 23, 2013, a site inspection was conducted at the above referenced facility at 341 State Route 534, Harpersfield Township, Ashtabula County. The inspection was conducted by John Schmidt of this office. Gary Hydinger represented the City of Geneva, contract operator to Geneva Area city School District (GACSD). The purpose of the inspection was to evaluate the facility's compliance status with respect to the terms and conditions of the facility's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The last compliance inspection was conducted on April 26, 2012.

The system consists of a pump station aerated flow equalization tank, a 5,700 gpd extended aeration system consisting of extended aeration tanks, clarification, and surface sand filtration, ultraviolet disinfection, and post-aeration. Sludge management consists of sludge removal from an aerated sludge tank when needed to another publicly owned treatment works (POTW). The facility discharges to an unnamed tributary to Bronson Creek adjacent to the west and north side of the facility. No backup power is provided to the facility, but the facility is provided with alarms.

Observations

Following are observations made during the inspection:

1. The design flow of the extended aeration plant is 5,700 gallons per day.
2. The plant will be operated by Gary Hydinger, Gary Copeland, Brandon Averill, Mike Parker, and Beverly Hoffman from the City of Geneva. Ohio EPA has received the operator notification form for this facility on May 4, 2012.
3. Log books, contract, and the operation and maintenance manual are maintained at the site and were available for inspection. The log book contained the information required by OAC 3745-7-09.
4. The overall condition of the treatment plant during this inspection was satisfactory with the plant well maintained. Collected trash was containerized for disposal at a solid waste landfill.

5. The flow equalization tank (EQ) blowers and pumps were cycled and found operational. The EQ pump alarms were cycled and found in operational condition.
6. The content of the aeration tank had a chocolate brown color and good mixing. Sludge returns were a chocolate brown color with minimal foaming. This is an indication of a plant in proper operating condition. The blowers were cycled and found in operating condition. The alarms were tested and found in operating condition.
7. The surface of the clarifier was clear with little scum noted around the skimmer. The skimmer and return lines were in proper operation. Effluent channels and weirs were clean.
8. The dosing pumps and alarms were cycled and found operational.
9. Surface sand filters were inspected, with the beds noted as raked level. The effluent discharged to the sand filter during the inspection was clear and free of color and turbidity. The wastewater percolated freely through the sand indicating that the beds were not clogged.
10. The ultraviolet disinfection system and post aeration system appear to be operating as designed.
11. The outfall sign is posted as prescribed in the permit. The final outfall was observed as acceptable visual quality.
12. Sludge was removed from the facility on May 16, 2013. Northeast Septic hauls sludge from this facility.
13. Geneva City provides the sample bottles and preservatives and performs laboratory analysis of collected samples. Geneva City monitors the plant and collects routine readings of color, odor, turbidity, flow, and pH. Gary Hydinger of Geneva City submits the data to Ohio EPA's electronic discharge monitoring report (eDMR) system on behalf of GACSD.

NPDES Permit Compliance Review

A review of the eDMRs received by Ohio EPA for the period April 1, 2012 through May 1, 2013 indicates noncompliance of the terms and conditions of your NPDES permit as follows:

Limit Violations

The following limit violations were noted for the period reviewed:

Station	Reporting Code	Parameter	Limit Type	Limit	Reported Value	Violation Date
001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3-N)	30D Conc	3.0	4.447	12/1/2012
001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3-N)	1D Conc	4.5	10.3	12/19/2012
001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3-N)	30D Conc	3.0	33.8	3/1/2013
001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3-N)	30D Qty	0.07	.0742	3/1/2013
001	00610	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3-N)	1D Conc	4.5	33.8	3/29/2013

Ohio EPA received notification of the December 2012 and March 2013 violations on January 14, 2013 and April 17, 2013, respectively. The frequency of ammonia violations placed GACSD in **significant noncompliance** with the terms and conditions of the NPDES permit for the first quarter of 2013. Your operator's April 17, 2013 letter indicated that a number of plant adjustments have been made to reduce the source of the ammonia and increase the plant's capacity to treat ammonia, and that ammonia issues may be finally under control. Please note that if violations continue, a schedule for plant improvements will be required.

Reporting Violations

No reporting code violations or reporting frequency were noted for the reporting period reviewed.

Compliance Schedule Violations

No compliance schedule violations were noted for the reporting period reviewed.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this inspection, please feel free to contact me at (330) 963-1175.

Respectively,



John M. Schmidt P.E., R.S.
Environmental Engineer
Division of Surface Water

JMS/cs

cc: Gary Hyding, City of Geneva

File/SP/Ashtabula/Harpersfield Twp./Cork Elementary (3PT00136)

