



John R. Kasich, Governor  
Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor  
Scot J. Pruitt, Director

May 29, 2013

Bill Birmelin, Board President  
Hidden Lakes Campground  
5428 Twp. Rd 108  
Mt. Gilead, OH 43338

**Re: Hidden Lakes Campground  
NPDES Permit 4GS00003/ OHGS00004  
Reconnaissance Inspection  
Morrow County**

Dear Mr. Birmelin:

On May 20, 2013, a Compliance Evaluation Inspection was conducted at the Hidden Lakes Campground. Present for the inspection were Wes Craft, contract operator from McGhee's Technical Services, Sam Easterday representing Hidden Lakes Campground and myself of the Ohio EPA, Central District Office, Division of Surface Water.

The purpose of the inspection was to evaluate compliance with the terms and conditions of your NPDES permit and to evaluate the operation and maintenance of the plant.

Please refer to the Summary of Findings and Comments section of this report for additional information regarding the inspection. 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](mailto:mike.sapp@epa.state.oh.us).

Sincerely,

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

c: Lonnie McGhee, McGhee's Technical services w/attachments

MS/nsm Hidden Lakes Campground

**NPDES Compliance Inspection Report**

**SECTION A: NATIONAL DATA SYSTEM CODING**

Permit #	NPDES #	Inspection Type	Inspector	Facility Type
4GS00003	OHGS00004	CEI	S	Semi-Public
Inspection Date	Entry Time	Exit Time	Notice of Violation	Significant Non-Compliance
5/20/2013	10:15 AM	11:30 AM	No	No

**SECTION B: FACILITY DATA**

Name and Location of Facility Inspected	Permit Effective Date
Hidden Lakes Campground 5428 Twp. Rd 108 Mt. Gilead, OH 43338	3/1/2010
	Permit Expiration Date
	12/31/2014
Name(s) and Title(s) of On-Site Representatives	Phone Numbers
Wes Craft, Contract Operator Sam Easterday, Maintenance Supervisor	(419) 886-4716
Name and Title of Responsible Official	Phone Number
Bill Birmelin, Board President	(419) 946-7050

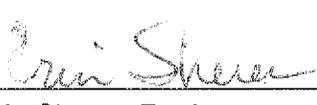
**SECTION C: AREAS EVALUATED DURING INSPECTION**

Key: S = Satisfactory, M = Marginal, U = Unsatisfactory, N = Not Evaluated

S	NPDES Compliance	
S	Operations & Maintenance	
S	Facility Site Review	
S	Collection System	
S	Flow Measurement	
S	Receiving Waters	
N	Laboratory	

Comments:

Signatures

 5/23/13	 5/23/13
Michael Sapp, Inspector Compliance & Enforcement Division of Surface Water District Office	Erin Sherer, Reviewer Compliance & Enforcement Supervisor Division of Surface Water District Office

Method of flow monitoring:	Hour meters on tertiary dosing station
Type of alarms for plant:	Audible and visual alarms at plant

**SECTION D: PRELIMINARY TREATMENT**

Type of Preliminary Treatment? Septage receiving tanks		
	Yes	No
Does the unit require pumping or cleaning?	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Maintenance of preliminary treatment is satisfactory?	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments/Status:

**SECTION E: AERATION**

Color of MLSS?	Dark brown			
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Aeration is taking place	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Plant is septic	<input type="checkbox"/> X
Blowers are operational	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Blowers are on a timer	X <input type="checkbox"/>
Skimmers are operational	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Plant is flooded	<input type="checkbox"/> X
Diffusers are operational	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grating is present	<input type="checkbox"/> X
Sludge return is operational	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Foam present?	X <input type="checkbox"/>
Overall maintenance satisfactory?				X <input type="checkbox"/>

Maintenance of aerating equipment is...

Comments/Status:

**SECTION F: CLARIFIERS**

Clarity of water topping weir	clear			
	Yes	No		
Weir is clean?	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Weir is in good condition (i.e., level, free of corrosion, etc.)?	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Is effluent present in weir channel?	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Is the sludge blanket visible?	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Do the clarifier walls need scraping?	<input type="checkbox"/>	N		
Is sludge settling properly?	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Overall maintenance of the clarifier is satisfactory?	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Comments/Status:

**SECTION G: TERTIARY TREATMENT**

	Yes	No		Y	No
Surface sand filters:	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Subsurface/Upflow	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Distribution box operational	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Beds alternated	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are filters ponding/flooding	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Beds raked	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sand filters overgrown	Y*	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chlorination present	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>
UV present	<input type="checkbox"/>	N	Dechlorination present	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>
Overall maintenance satisfactory?				Y	<input type="checkbox"/>

Frequency of cleaning:

Comments/Status:

Off-line filter had significant weed growth

**SECTION H: SLUDGE HANDING / STORAGE DISPOSAL**

Sludge is periodically wasted from what component?	clarifier	
Sludge disposal contractor?		
Sludge disposal location?		
	Yes	No
Does the WWTP have sludge drying beds?	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the WWTP have a sludge holding tank?	<input type="checkbox"/>	N
Is the maintenance on the sludge handling unit adequate?	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments/Status:

**SECTION I: RECORD KEEPING / OPERATOR OF RECORD**

Operator of Record has an unexpired license of class required by Permit?	X	
Has the Operator of Record submitted an ORC Notification form?	X	
Copy of certificate of Operator of Record displayed on-site?*		X
If a Staffing Reduction plan has been approved, are the stipulations of the plan being met?		X
Operator of Record log book provided?	X	
Minimum operator staffing requirements fulfilled (OAC 3745-7)?	X	
Log book kept onsite (in an area protected from weather)?	X	
Log book contains the following:		
Identification of treatment works	X	
Date/times of arrival/departure for Operator of Record and any other operator required by OAC 3745-7	X	
Daily record of operator and maintenance activities (including preventative maintenance, repairs and request for repairs, process control test results, etc.)	X	
Laboratory results (unless documented on bench sheets)	X	
Identification of person making entries	X	
Has the Operator of Record submitted written notifications to the permittee, Ohio EPA and, if applicable, any local environmental agencies when a collection system overflow, treatment plant bypass or effluent limit violation has occurred	X	
Logbook Format	Computer log	Bound book

Comments/Status:

**SECTION J: PLANT DISCHARGE**

Discharge point is:	Outfall to Kokosing River
Discharge is visible:	Yes
Name of discharge point:	Outfall 001
Marker present:	Yes
Quality of effluent:	Clear
Contract laboratory:	Alloway (occasionally MASI)

Comments/Status

## Compliance Data for Hidden Lakes Campground between 10/1/2011 to 5/1/2013

### Summary

Permit Effluent Limit Violations: 3  
 Permit Effluent Code Violations: 0  
 Permit Effluent Frequency Violations: 0  
 Compliance Schedule Violations: 0

Limit Violations						
Reporting Period	Station	Parameter	Limit Type	Limit	Value	Date
June 2012	001	Fecal Coliform	30D Conc	1000	1400.	6/1/2012
August 2012	001	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3)	30D Conc	1.0	1.9	8/1/2012
August 2012	001	Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3)	7D Conc	1.5	1.9	8/8/2012

### Flow Data for Hidden Lakes Campground between 10/1/2011 and 5/1/2013

	Date	Flows (GPD)
Ten Highest Flows	12/5/2011	11700
	9/9/2012	9504
	9/2/2012	7920
	9/1/2012	7632
	8/14/2012	5616
	11/28/2011	5508
	1/26/2012	5472
	9/17/2012	5364
	10/20/2011	5076
	11/24/2011	5041
<b>Average Flow Rate</b>		1268

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND COMMENTS

### Hidden Lakes Campground Wastewater Treatment Plant 4GS00003\*CD - OHGS00004

The wastewater treatment plant serving the Hidden Lakes Campground facility has a design treatment capacity of 25,000 gpd with a direct discharge to the Kokosing River. The plant is designed to serve 1008 lots, a small food service facility, shower house, and four dump stations/rest rooms. Approximately 750 of the lots are currently occupied; thirty of which are occupied by year round occupants. Only the food service facility and shower house are tied-into the plant directly. Wastewater generated from the individual lots and dump stations is hauled to the plant using a pumper truck. Wet stream process provided at the facility include two receiving tanks for the trucked wastewater, extended aeration with clarification, a dosing tank, tertiary sand filters, chlorination and dechlorination. Solids handling consist of a sludge holding tank with decant capabilities and a sludge drying bed.

1. At the time of the inspection, the following general observations were made with operational practices at the plant.
  - The air lines on the wastewater receiving tanks were not functional.
  - The wastewater receiving tanks at the head of the plant are not designed to feed flow to the plant at an equalized rate.
  - The campground is equipped with four comfort stations and one dump station that are pumped-out on different days of the week in order to equalize loadings to the plant.
  - Each load of waste from the comfort stations is approximately 1500 gallons.
  - Aeration blowers are operated in an on/off mode of operation.
  - The influent bar screen was no longer functional. The influent splitter box and bar screen will be removed and replaced this summer.
  - 30-minute settleability tests are performed once a week to assess solids inventories.
  - Alloway Labs currently performs all lab work with the exception of dissolved oxygen and chlorine.
  - Campground staff perform plant maintenance for approximately 1 hour a day (scraping clarifier walls, checking the skimmer, cleaning sand filters and hosing the effluent weir).

- A pumper truck is used to pump sludge from the sludge holding tank to the sludge drying bed once or twice a week.
  - The plant encounters freezing problems due to colder temperatures and lower flows during the winter months.
  - The average daily flow rate is 1205 gpd. Peak flows over 26,000 gpd are experienced on summer holiday weekends.
2. The campground connected to DelCo Water in October 2013 and eliminated the water system that previously served the campground. Previous inspections expressed concerns regarding unpermitted discharges of chlorinated water in the iron filter backwash.
  3. During the previous inspection we discussed the possibility of modifying the two wastewater receiving tanks at the head of the wastewater plant since no treatment is currently being provided by these units. It may facilitate compliance with effluent ammonia limits if these tanks are modified to provide air to the incoming waste stream, as well as pumps or some other sort of controlled outlet structure to provide an equalized flow of wastewater to the plant. I would recommend that this option be explored in the future if permit compliance become more problematic.
  4. The facility has reported three NPDES permit violations since the last inspection was conducted in October 2011. The cause of the ammonia violations was not determined. The chlorination and dechlorination units were cleaned following the fecal coliform violation in June 2012.
  5. Our office received a complaint that the occupant of lot #221 was dumping the contents of their wastewater holding tank directly into a stream behind the lot which subsequently flows into the largest lake and to the Kokosing River. Sam Easterday and I spoke to the owner of lot #221 and explained that under no circumstances is the practices acceptable and enforcement action will be taken if additional complaints are received. The Morrow County Health Department will also be notified of these concerns.