



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

June 6, 2013

RE: MAHONING COUNTY
BERLIN TOWNSHIP
BEN'S RESTAURANT
NPDES PERMIT NO 3PR00491

Ms. Penny Bendetta
Ben's Restaurant
17729 Akron-Canfield Road
Berlin Center, OH 44401

Ms. Bendetta:

On May 20, 2013, this writer conducted an inspection of the wastewater treatment system for Ben's Restaurant. The intent of the inspection was to evaluate the condition of the treatment system. In addition, the compliance record for the treatment system was evaluated.

Observations

Following are observations made at the time of the inspection:

1. The content of the aeration tank was light brown. The contents of the tank in a well balance system should be medium brown. Both blowers appeared to be operational.
2. The clarifier had heavy scum on the surface of the tank. In addition, a significant amount of scum and sludge was identified around the effluent weir for the clarifier. The surface of the clarifier should be free of any scum or floating sludge. The presence of heavy scum on the surface of the clarifier indicated a problem in the treatment system.
3. The cause of the unsatisfactory condition of the aeration tank and clarifier was identified during the inspection. The sludge return was shut off, and as a result, no sludge was being returned from the clarifier to the aeration tank. When the air to the sludge return pump was turned on, black and odorous sludge was returned to the aeration tank. The return sludge should be medium brown and odorless. The continuous return of fresh sludge to the aeration tank is critical for operation of a balanced system.
4. Water discharged from the dosing station to the sand filters was turbid. Both dosing pumps were operational at the time of the inspection. The presence of turbid water from the dosing station indicates that significant solids had escaped the clarifier.
5. The north sand filter was clogged with solids. The filter had approximately 6 to 12 inches of wastewater pooled on the surface. The wastewater was gray and septic. It appeared that solids and algae were floating on the surface of the wastewater.
6. Very little discharge of wastewater was occurring through Outfall 001 at the time of the inspection.
7. Chlorination tablets were in place; however, dechlorination tables were absent from the system. Since the inspection was conducted during the disinfection season, both chemical tablets should have been in place. In addition, it appeared that the chlorination tablets were wedged in the tubes such that they had no contact with the wastewater.

8. Be advised that the condition of the treatment system was unsatisfactory at the time of the inspection. A telephone conversation with Joe DeNiro, the Certified Operator, resulted in a plan of action. The plan included pumping the sludge off of the surface of the clarifier and out of the dosing tank. The plan of action also included pumping the wastewater and sludge from the sand filter. The system must be rebalanced following those actions.
9. It is recommended that the depth of the sand in the filters be measured. If the sand is less than 18 inches deep, sand appropriate for wastewater filters must be added to the filters.
10. The disinfection system must be immediately checked and all tablets must be properly in place to provide disinfection of the wastewater.

The wastewater treatment system is considered a Class 1 treatment system. As a Class 1 treatment plant, the NPDES Permit for the facility and the Ohio Administrative Code(OAC) 3745-7 requires that the Operator of Record be at the facility a minimum of 3 days per week and at least 0.5 hours per day for a total staffing requirement of 1.5 hours per week.

Be advised that the Operator of Record must maintain a log book documenting time spent at the facility and any activities performed while at the wastewater plant. The log book must be maintained at the facility, along with the daily observations, for review at any time. The log book and daily observations can be stored under one of the blower covers for review at any time. In the event the record cannot be stored in a blower cover or in some other weather proof enclosure, a separate weather proof box must be installed at the facility to store the box.

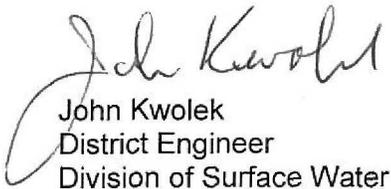
Compliance Review

The compliance record for Ben's wastewater treatment system was reviewed as part of this inspection. The period of review was January 2012 through April 2013. One violation was reported during the review period.

Reporting Period	Parameter	Limit Type	Limit	Reported Value	Violation Date
September 2012	CBOD 5 day	30D Conc	10.0	11.9	9/1/2012

You may contact this writer at (330) 963-1251 or at john.kwolek@epa.ohio.gov to discuss any questions you may have.

Respectfully,



John Kwolek
District Engineer
Division of Surface Water

JK/cs

cc. Joe DeNiro, Operator of Record
John Lubonovic, Mahoning County Department of Health