



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

July 30, 2013

RE: GREAT LAKES MEDIEVAL FAIRE  
OHIO EPA PERMIT 3PR00457  
TRUMBULL TWP, ASHTABULA COUNTY  
COMPLIANCE EVALUATION INSPECTION

**NOTICE OF VIOLATION**

**CERTIFIED MAIL**

Mr. Larry Rickard, Owner  
Great Lakes Medieval Faire  
P.O. Box 376  
Rock Creek, Ohio 44084

Dear Mr. Rickard:

On July 29, 2013, a site inspection was conducted at the above referenced facility at 3033 State Route 534, Trumbull Township, Ashtabula County. The inspection was conducted by John Schmidt of this office and I spoke with Cindy Hotchkiss, Office Assistant, representing Great Lakes Medieval Faire (GLMF) prior to conducting the inspection. Nobody represented GLMF during the inspection. 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 inspections were conducted on July 12, 2012 and July 31, 2012.

**Observations and Notations**

The following observations and notations were made during the inspection:

1. The plant receives wastewater flow from the office area in the months prior to, during, and after the faire by staff. Per Ms. Hotchkiss, the building restrooms have since been shut down following the July 12, 2012 inspection. If the buildings will be occupied by employees for more than a few hours a day, sanitary facilities (toilets and hand sinks), must be provided per Ohio health laws. The complex is typically not staffed during the winter months. As previously requested, please verify the dates that the restroom facilities and other sources tributary to this wastewater plant are being used by your staff and contractors.

Ohio EPA records reflect no Operator of Record (ORC) for this facility. As indicated in the 2011 and 2012 inspections, GLMF must designate an ORC as soon as possible. An ORC is still required to inspect the plant even in the off-season. Forms to be completed by both the owner and the operator may be found online at <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=7fKxZGllvBY%3d&tabid=3650>.

2. Log books and the operation and maintenance manual are still not located at the site and were not available for inspection. Minimum staffing of the plant is not documented. Log books, the NPDES permit, a copy of the ORC contract, and the operation and maintenance manual must be maintained at the site. The permit and contract should be maintained at the same location as the log book. The information was found not compliant with Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 3745-7-09.

3. A review of the electronic Discharge Monitoring Report (eDMR) information indicates that no flow has been reported for July 2012 and September 2012 through June 2013. Analytical data must be collected and flow reported, even if that flow was for a single day (or part thereof) during the reporting month. The eDMR reports are missing for August 2012 and July 2013. Based on the 2012 inspection, the plant was pumped and reseeded sometime between July 12, 2012 and July 31, 2012. The volume of materials removed from the plant should have been reported under Station 588 in the December 2012 eDMR and reported in the annual sludge report due no later than January 31, 2013.
4. During the inspection, the aeration tank was observed as receiving sufficient air, was a light brown color, and no noticeable odor. The single blower was noted as operating during the inspection. If the NPDES permit is renewed a second blower will be required. The blower was cycled and found operational. There are no alarms.
5. The surface of the clarifier was clear, and effluent weirs and channels were reasonably clean. The return sludge line and skimmer appear functional once the air is turned on.
6. Surface sand filter dosing pumps operate on a float system and did not automatically operate during the inspection. Ohio EPA could not test the pumps to ascertain their operational status.
7. Sand filters do not appear to have been weeded since the last inspection. Wall seals were noted as having daylight showing through them permitting the beds to leak if operated. All joints in the bed walls will need to be resealed. Water could not be discharged to the beds due to pump operation. The distribution box had no plug installed to allow one bed to rest while the other operates. No sludge was apparent in the beds.
8. The chlorination system was found to be empty of required chemicals. Your final effluent is not being disinfected prior to discharge. The tank must be stocked with chemicals as soon as possible and the tank cleaned of accumulated debris.
9. This plant has no provisions for dechlorination. A tablet dechlorinator must be provided at the outlet of the chlorine contact tank to remove excess chlorine that can be harmful to Trumbull Creek.
10. During the inspection, the plant was not discharging to Trumbull Creek, with only a few drips coming from the outlet pipe.

#### **NPDES Permit Compliance Review**

A review of the eDMR received by Ohio EPA for the period July 1, 2012 through July 1, 2013 indicates apparent noncompliance of the terms and conditions of your NPDES permit as identified below:

#### **Limit Violations**

No information has been submitted to Ohio EPA's eDMR system to calculate limit violations; therefore, Ohio EPA cannot ascertain if current plant performance is resulting in effluent limit violations. We discussed this with your staff during both the last inspection. Data must be submitted pursuant to your NPDES permit, even if the plant only discharges a single time during the month.

#### Reporting Violations

A review of the eDMR information indicates that no flow has been reported for July 2012 and September 2012 through June 2013. Analytical data must be collected and flow reported, even if that flow was for a single day (or part thereof) during the reporting month. eDMR reports are missing for August 2012 and July 2013 and prior to July 2012, with the exception of January 2010. No flow data was reported in all of 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, or so far in 2013. Flow and corresponding analytical data must be reported even if the flow was for a single day during the month. Flow should be reported as "AL" for "no flow" from the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) for only months when there is no discharge from the facility, reflecting times when the facility is not used. On December 9, 2010 May 16, 2011, July 28, 2011, October 19, 2011, November 30, 2011, July 16, 2012, and August 2, 2012, Ohio EPA notified Great Lakes Medieval Faire of failure to submit monitoring information as prescribed by your NPDES permit.

**Ohio EPA understands that you are required by the Ashtabula County Health Department to have operating restroom facilities available for your staff. Ohio EPA notes that GLMF offices are staffed with personnel and contractors that have access to permanent restroom facilities in buildings with flow to this wastewater plant. Please provide a rationale for the failure to report flow and sampling data from 2009 through June 2013. Use of the plant for employee restrooms, along with sampling and reporting must commence immediately.**

#### Compliance Schedule Violations

Based upon a review of Ohio EPA's files, the following is a compliance schedule summary as specified by your permit:

| Permit Effective Date | Permit Expiration Date | Schedule Due Date | Completion Date | Event Code | Schedule Type | Schedule Milestone      |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| 02/01/2008            | 01/31/2013             | 05/01/2009        | Not Submitted   | 01299      | Construction  | WWTP Effectiveness Eval |

From examination of Ohio EPA's files, Ohio EPA has no record of receiving a report on the evaluation of the effectiveness of the treatment system and an assessment of the capability of the system to meet the final effluent limitations. Based upon an examination of the facility during the May 12, 2011, June 22, 2011, July 12, 2012, July 31, 2012, and July 29, 2013 inspections, it appears that at a minimum this facility requires a tablet dechlorinator at the outlet of the chlorine contact tank. While limited eDMRs were submitted in 2008 and again during part of 2012 and 2013, the reports indicate only that the plant was not discharging with no actual monitoring data submitted. Therefore, it is unclear to Ohio EPA if the plant has achieved its operational level as specified by your NPDES permit.

**Please provide Ohio EPA a letter stating that the existing system can meet the final limits supported by data or submit a permit-to-install application for the necessary improvements as prescribed by your NPDES permit.**

#### Other Violations

1. Failure to Designate an ORC – The inspection revealed that GLMF still does not have a licensed operator supervising this facility. Part II, Item A of your NPDES permit, the wastewater treatment works must be under the supervision of a Class A State Certified Operator as required by OAC 3745-7-02. GLMF may enter into a contract for the technical services of an appropriately certified operator to inspect, monitor, and supervise the

operation thereof provided that a renewable contract, describing the duties and responsibilities of said certified operator, is submitted to and approved by Ohio EPA. For your reference, a list of contract operators may be found at the following web address: [http://wwwapp.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/opcert/ORC\\_list.xls](http://wwwapp.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/opcert/ORC_list.xls). Ohio EPA's Operator of Record designation form may be found at [http://epa.ohio.gov/portals/28/documents/opcert/Operator\\_of\\_Record\\_Notification\\_Form.pdf](http://epa.ohio.gov/portals/28/documents/opcert/Operator_of_Record_Notification_Form.pdf). Please complete the ORC form and return to Ohio EPA Central Office. Please provide this office with a courtesy copy of the ORC form in replying to this letter.

2. Failure to Maintain a Facility Log Book: The inspection revealed that records required pursuant to OAC 3745-7-09(A)(3) are not being maintained at the facility and were not available for inspection as required by rule. A log book must be maintained at the WWTP and available for inspection 24 hours a day. In addition, there must be a copy of the NPDES permit and a copy of the contract you have with a contract operator, if applicable. This is typically accomplished by posting a mailbox or some other weather-tight container at the WWTP.
3. Failure to Meet Minimum Staffing Requirements: Based upon a lack of a log book to document visits by your ORC, GLMF is in violation of OAC 3745-7-04 for not meeting minimum staffing hour requirements. The facility must be staffed by a licensed operator twice weekly for a total of an hour. If notification is provided to Ohio EPA's operator certification unit in Columbus indicating that flow sources have ceased (off-season) per OAC 3745-7-04(C)(2)(f) and approval is obtained from the Director, the frequency of inspections by the Operator may be reduced to monthly. I provided Mr. Sontos a copy of OAC 3745-7-04 during the July 31, 2012 inspection.
4. Failure to Report Monitoring Data: Part III, Item 4 of your NPDES permit requires you to report data to Ohio EPA electronically. A review of Ohio EPA files finds no data reported between 2009 and July 2013. Missing information must be submitted as soon as possible.
5. Failure to Submit Annual Sludge Report: Ohio EPA notes that Part II, Item L of your NPDES permit requires you to submit a report no later than January 31<sup>st</sup> summarizing the sewage sludge disposal, use, storage, or treatment activities during the previous calendar year. The report is required even if no sludge was removed the previous calendar year. Ohio EPA's files reflect that GLMF has never submitted this report since the NPDES permit was issued in 2008. Please submit the report to Chris Moody of this office as prescribed by your NPDES permit.
6. Failure to Renew your NPDES Permit: NPDES Permit Renewal: Your current NPDES permit expired on January 31, 2013; therefore the NPDES renewal application was due to Ohio EPA no later than August 31, 2012. To-date, no NPDES renewal has been received. GLMF is in violation of OAC 3745-33-03(B) for failure to submit a timely NPDES renewal application.

Other Compliance Issues:

Ohio EPA has provided a hand delivered copy of the proposed Director's Final Findings and Orders (DFFOs) to Beth Sacerich of your staff on June 7, 2012. To date we have not heard a response from you regarding these Orders. Ms. Hotchkiss has indicated that she has not heard anything from you to share with me. You or your attorney must contact Martha Horvitz, Ohio EPA Legal at (614)

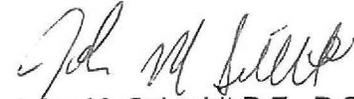
644-3037 and/or Jeanan R. Weber, Ohio Attorney General's Office, Environmental Enforcement Section at (614) 466-2766 as soon as possible. **Please note that Ohio EPA has forwarded this matter onto the Ohio Attorney General's Office.**

**Please be advised that failure to submit eDMRs, failure to submit accurate eDMRs, failure to comply with the compliance schedule prescribed in your NPDES permit, failure to renew your NPDES permit, and failure to adequately operate and maintain your wastewater treatment plant are additional violations for inclusion in the enforcement action which has been initiated pursuant to chapter 6111 of the Ohio Revised Code. Based on the above information, Great Lakes Medieval Faire remains in significant noncompliance with the terms and conditions of the NPDES permit and, therefore, subject to enforcement actions pursuant to Chapter 6111 of the Ohio Revised Code. Such actions can result in fines of up to \$10,000 per day of violation.**

**Please inform this office, in writing, by August 15, 2013 as to the actions discussed that have been or will be taken to correct the above noncompliance or explanations if you believe the noncompliance issues noted are in error. Your response to this letter should include the dates that the actions have been or will be completed. Please be advised that past or present issues of noncompliance can continue as subjects of the current or future enforcement actions by Ohio EPA.**

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: Martha Horvitz, Ohio EPA Legal, CO  
Jeanan R. Weber, AGO EES  
Ray Saporito, Ashtabula County Health Department

File/SP/Ashtabula/Trumbull Twp./Great Lakes Medieval Faire (3PR00457)

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### Contact Information

|                   |                                       |                                    |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Phone:</b>     | (440) 474-4280                        | <b>Mailing Address:</b>            |
| <b>Fax:</b>       | (440) 474-4283                        | Great Lakes Medieval Faire         |
| <b>Toll Free:</b> | 1-855-FAIRE-4-U<br>( 1-855-324-7348 ) | PO Box 376<br>Rock Creek, OH 44084 |

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

July 30, 2013

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TRUMBULL TWP, ASHTABULA COUNTY  
COMPLIANCE EVALUATION INSPECTION

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

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