



Environmental
Protection Agency

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

December 29, 2011

Mr. David Heckler
Tri-Cities North Regional Wastewater Authority
3777 Old Needmore Road
Dayton, Ohio 45424

RE: Sludge Release Notice of Violation.

Dear Mr. Heckler:

I am writing in follow-up to a release of sludge from the Tri-Cities sludge force main on December 13, 2011. The release occurred along U.S. 40 near the Taylorsville Reserve. A rupture in the force main caused the release.

In discussion with Mr. Joe Hart, Tri-Cities Wastewater Authority, I understand the leak was from a 6" PVC force main that was installed in 1985 to transport waste sludge from the Tri-Cities North Regional waste water treatment plant to storage tanks located at dedicated sludge fields. The leak was first detected at 12:10 PM by the health department. Due to uncertainties as to the source of the leak, the release was not reported to the Tri-Cities authority until 5:25 PM. Upon notification the force main was shut down immediately. Approximately 4,500 gallons of sludge was released to the drainage swale along U.S. 40. The sludge subsequently flowed through the Taylorsville Reserve and ultimately to the Great Miami River (see attached pictures).

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The release of sludge from the Tri-Cities force main is in violation of Ohio Revised Code Chapter 6111.04, "Acts of Pollution Prohibited. A written response detailing all action (including pertinent time lines) taken to mitigate the release and repair the force main must be submitted to this office by no later than February 10, 2012. Along with this response please provide any actions taken or proposed to prevent future releases. Based upon the age of the force main, I would recommend the entire length of the force main be reviewed (TV inspection) for condition and integrity.

If you have any questions, please call me at (937) 285 – 6097.

Sincerely,

Joseph Reynolds
Division of Surface Water

cc: Miami County Health Department
Joe Hart, Tri-Cities Wastewater Authority