



**Environmental
Protection Agency**

John R. Kasich, Governor

Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor

Scott J. Nally, Director

November 28, 2011

RE: TRUMBULL COUNTY
TRUMBULL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
& OTHERS
NPDES PERMIT NO. OHQ000002
OHIO EPA PERMIT NO. 3GQ00002*BG
MS4 PROGRAM – MCM NO. 4

Mike Wilson, Executive Director
Trumbull County Soil and Water Conservation District
520 W. Main St. #3
Cortland, OH 44410

Dear Mr. Wilson:

On October 7, 2011 and October 31, 2011, Ohio EPA received complaints alleging an illicit discharge is occurring within the Howland Township municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4). The complaints allege that the construction of a sanitary sewer and water line has caused contaminated groundwater to be discharged into the Howland Township MS4 located on Oakwood Drive. Ohio EPA records indicate that the Howland Township MS4 is covered by General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit for Small MS4s to Discharge Storm Water (General Storm Water Permit), permit No. 3GQ00002*BG.

On October 13, 2011, Ohio EPA forwarded the October 7, 2011, complaint to the Trumbull County Soil and Water Conservation District (Trumbull SWCD) for investigation as a possible illicit discharge into the Howland Township MS4. On October 18, 2011 Trumbull SWCD investigated the complaint and submitted a report detailing the inspection findings to Ohio EPA on October 20, 2011. The report states the water being discharged into the MS4 is clear and has a sulfur smell. In addition, the report provides that Trumbull SWCD has requested information regarding if unweathered slag has been utilized as backfill for the construction of the sanitary sewer. On October 20, 2011, Ohio EPA inquired, via e-mail, if Trumbull SWCD had evaluated monitoring pH since slag leachate may violate Ohio's Water Quality Standard for pH (6.5 S.U. to 9.0 S.U.), as detailed within Table 7-1 of Ohio Administrative Code Rule (OAC) 3745-1-07. Trumbull SWCD forwarded to the evaluation request to the Trumbull County Health Department on October 20, 2011.

On November 7, 2011, the Trumbull County Health Department performed monitoring of the potential illicit discharge and the results include pH measurements of 9.35 S.U. and 9.64 S.U. Please be aware that both readings violate Ohio's Water Quality Standard for pH.

Part III.B.3.e of the General Storm Water Permit establishes that "you shall develop and implement a plan to detect and eliminate non-storm water discharges, including illegal dumping, to your system." According to the monitoring performed by the Trumbull County Health Department, it appears that the ground water surfacing as a result of sanitary sewer construction activities is contacting contaminated backfill materials and is resulting in the discharge of leachate with elevated pH that is in violation of OAC 3745-1-07.

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Please submit a copy of the plan that will be utilized to eliminate the illicit discharge to the MS4 to Ohio EPA by December 31, 2011. At a minimum, the plan to eliminate the illicit discharge shall contain the following information:

- The best management practice(s) (BMP) and/or corrective action(s) to be utilized to eliminate the illicit discharge;
- The entity that will be responsible for implementing the BMP(s) and/or corrective action(s) to eliminate the illicit discharge;
- The dates the BMP(s) and or corrective action(s) will be initiated and completed; and
- How Trumbull SWCD will perform confirmation that the illicit discharge has been eliminated.

Should you have any questions regarding this illicit discharge notification, please contact me at (330) 963-1118 or via e-mail at chris.moody@epa.ohio.gov at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Chris Moody
Environmental Specialist II
Division of Surface Water

CM/cs

cc: Darlene St. George, Howland Township Administrator
Steve Winans

ec: Mike Wilson, Trumbull SWCD
Jacob Gore, Trumbull SWCD
Steve Kramer, Trumbull County Health Department
Steve Winans