Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
John R. Kasich, Governor
Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor
Scott J. Nally, Director

November 22, 2011

RE: COLUMBIA COUNTY
CITY OF EAST PALESTINE
COMPLIANCE EVALUATION INSPECTION
NPDES PERMIT NO. 3PD00042

Mayor and Council
City of East Palestine, City Hall
P.O. Box 231
144 N. Market St.
East Palestine, OH 44413

Dear Ladies and Gentleman:

On October 26, 2011, this writer met with Mr. John Jurjavcic and conducted an inspection of the operation and maintenance of the East Palestine Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) located at 220 Park Drive.

The treatment system includes bar screen, fine screen, grit removal, aeration, phosphorus removal (through chemical addition), clarification, UV disinfection, post aeration and the final effluent discharges to Leslie Run. The following is a summary of the inspection:

1) All treatment units were operable and in good repair. The aeration tanks had a good brown color and the clarifiers were producing a good secondary effluent. The south clarifier was off line, at the time, since the flow was low enough to not require its use. The plant staff does a good job maintaining the treatment facilities and is innovative with employing cost saving measures for the city. It should be noted that covering the weirs of the new clarifiers would save considerable plant man power.

2) Effluent data provided by the city was reviewed from April 2011 through October 2011. The only violation noted was an Oil and Grease violation. This was the only time a parameter was violated and historically this parameter is not detected. The City believes this high result was due to a laboratory error, and since it has not reoccurred, it is most likely the case.

3) The City submitted a wastewater Treatment and Collection System Evaluation Plan on October 31, 2011.

4) We also had a brief meeting to discuss staffing requirements for the plant. A class III operator must be present at the plant 40 hours per week. The City could use multiple Class III operators to split up the work load. Alternatively, the City could submit a staffing reduction plan to Columbus to reduce the number of hours for the operator of record. The operator of record for a class III treatment works may be replaced by a backup operator with a certificate one classification lower than the treatment works or sewerage system for a period of up to 30 consecutive days.

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Currently there is only one Class III operator on the staff. The City should be encouraging there operators to upgrade their licenses to minimize future complications in WWTP over site. Please remember the water plant would have its own set of requirements in addition to those of the WWTP.

Should you have any comments or questions, feel free to contact me at (330) 963-1193.

Respectfully,

Joseph E. Trocchio

Joseph E. Trocchio, P.E.
Environmental Engineer
Division of Surface Water

JET/cs

cc: John Jurjavcic, Superintendent
Gary Clark, City Manager

File: Public/Permit Compliance/City of East Palestine