



April 28, 2015

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Commissioner

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Dear Dr. Young and Mr. Sweeney:

Enclosed is the DEP Response to NYSDOH/EPA Comments on FAD Deliverables submitted February 28, 2015, in accordance with the Revised 2007 Filtration Avoidance Determination (FAD).

As always, if you have any questions about these comments or other aspects of the City's watershed protection efforts, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

David S. Warne
Assistant Commissioner

**DEP Response to NYSDOH/EPA Comments on the FAD Deliverable Reports
Submitted February 28, 2015
Response Date April 28, 2015**

6.2 Wastewater Treatment Plant Compliance Inspection Reports

Summary – 3rd and 4th quarter 2014

The Wastewater Treatment Plant Compliance Inspection Report, Summary – 3rd and 4th quarter 2014 was submitted as required by the Revised 2007 FAD. The deliverable is met.

DEP Response:

Comment noted.

Clarifications are requested for the items listed below. The summary report states that:

(p.7) Andritz will not come to run the plate and frame press unit for the Boiceville WWTP “until the balance of the sand filter repairs is paid”. Please identify the responsible party and the reason for the delinquency in payment. Also, provide an update on status of the press unit repair/performance optimization;

DEP Response:

DEP advanced funding to the Town of Olive, following Hurricane Irene to ensure all necessary repairs to the facility were completed. Currently, the Town has paid 80% of the monies owed to their contractors and equipment suppliers; the remainder has been held in retainage until the Town receives the FEMA insurance money. After providing information on multiple occasions to four different FEMA representatives since the initial claim was filed, the Town is still waiting to receive the FEMA monies. They were told they would receive a check in March of 2015 but instead the Town was contacted by another new representative requesting information that has previously been provided. The information above was provided by the Town’s contract operator, LVDV.

The facility operators will begin hauling liquid sludge from the Boiceville WWTP until the press unit is repaired. The landfill has refused to accept deliveries from the plant because they are unable to achieve the minimum 20% solids requirement.

(p.8) an application to modify the SPDES permit for the Chichester SSTS, a DEP-owned facility, was submitted to NYSDEC. Additional information is requested about the justification/reason for such modification;

DEP Response:

DEP requested a flow modification from 9,900 gpd to 10,500 gpd to accommodate the new pump dosage and additional sewer laterals installed approximately 20 years ago. There are no other numeric discharge limits for the site. NYSDEC granted the permit modification and incorporated a compliance schedule, including infiltration and inflow (I&I) reports and a schedule for collection system repairs.

(p. 18) Item A7 received a rating of Marginal during December's inspection of the Hunter WWTP. The report alleges that the cause of high flow was identified as the local drinking water treatment plant (WTP) which "was stuck in the backwash mode". The plant owner/operator was notified but "it took some time before he responded and corrected the problem". To avoid similar delays in response in the future, WWTP personnel might consider working with WTP personnel to develop an emergency notification protocol;

DEP Response:

The Town of Hunter is responsible for both facilities, communication between the two plants falls within their jurisdiction; however, DEP will request they institute an emergency notification protocol so this crucial time delay can be avoided in the future.

(p.21) various items (i.e., A3, A4, D2) at the L'man Achai WWTP were rated either unsatisfactory or marginal during both, the 3rd and the 4th Quarter Inspections. Please provide additional information about the joint DEP/DEC pre-season start-up inspections (e.g. anticipated date, involved parties, proposed actions on how to resolve persistent deficiencies and expedite compliance prior to the summer 2015 season);

DEP Response:

NYSDEC plans to issue letters in the end of April 2015 to all seasonal WWTP owners, citing their obligation, per Division of Water Regulations Part 650 that WWTPs are required to be under the supervision of an appropriately certified operator. The plant operator should be under contract and running the facility in advance of the operating season to ensure the treatment process is fully functional. DEP and NYSDEC will coordinate pre-season inspections for May/June 2015.

(p.28) on July 1, 2014, DMR monitoring data from Oorah Camp WWTP indicated high exceedance of the SPDES action level for TDS (TDS more than twice the action level). Has the reason for the elevated reading been identified?

DEP Response:

DEP discussed this with the operator; the most likely source of the elevated readings is from the potable water supply. DEP is aware that further investigation needs to be done and will discuss source and monitoring of TDS with the operator during the pre-season inspection. This parameter is listed as a Type 1 action level within the SPDES permit. It will require the plant to perform more frequent monitoring for TDS to establish cause and resolution.

(p 37) on November 24, 2014 DEP received a letter from Timber Lake (Camp) WWTP indicating that all issues cited with a marginal rating had been addressed. Please confirm that microfiltration deficiencies cited during the July 17th and October 24th inspections have been remediated. Please provide additional information about the proximity of this WWTP's discharge to Ashokan reservoir.

DEP Response:

The microfiltration deficiencies cited during the July 17 and October 24 inspections have been addressed. A new compressor was installed and the drain alarm has been repaired.

This facility discharges to a tributary roughly 2.5 miles upstream from the upper Esopus Creek; at a point approximately 10 miles upstream from the Ashokan Reservoir.

6.2 WWTP Water Quality Sampling Monitoring Semiannual Report

(July 1 – December 31, 2014)

The Semiannual Report on water quality sample monitoring of the NYC-owned and non-City-owned WWTPs was submitted as required by the Revised 2007 FAD. The deliverable is met.

DEP Response:

Comment noted.

Additional information/clarification is requested for the following items:

(p.9) monitoring data as of 13Aug14 for the Delhi WWTP indicated noticeable elevations in Settleable Solids and Fecal Coliform levels. Please provide additional information on the cause, if determined.

DEP Response:

No cause was confirmed for the elevation in Settleable Solids and Fecal Coliforms in the 13Aug14 sample; however, a plausible explanation is provided. Due to difficult sampling conditions at this site (turbulence), occasionally, the sample collection vessel can graze the wall of the manhole which can lead to contamination. On this occasion, 13Aug14, Grahamsville Laboratory staff noticed unusual results for turbidity and FC in the sample and promptly notified DEP Regulatory Compliance. In response, a second sample was collected, on 27Aug14, and results were normal with no SPDES violation for settleable solids, pH, CBOD, suspended solids, phosphorus, ammonia, coliform or any other tested parameter. It is possible that the initial elevated results were due to the difficult sample collection conditions, but there is no evidence to confirm this speculation. Consequently, the elevated results may have been valid; therefore the 13Aug14 data were not rejected or qualified in LIMS, and both sample results were reported. The plant disinfection system was also operating normally with 0.77 mg/l chlorine exiting the sand filters.

(p.12) monitoring data for the Roxbury Run WWTP as of 16Oct14 showed substantial increase in the Suspended Solids level. Please provide additional information on the cause, if determined.

DEP Response:

The operator stated they had problems with the rapid sand filter pumps and the microfiltration units during that time. All mechanical abnormalities have been corrected, effluent readings are compliant.