



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

We Protect Hoosiers and Our Environment.

100 N. Senate Avenue • Indianapolis, IN 46204

(800) 451-6027 • (317) 232-8603 • www.idem.IN.gov

Eric J. Holcomb
Governor

Brian C. Rockensuess
Commissioner

July 17, 2024

Via Email: sanchezh@bloomington.in.gov
Mr. Hector Ortiz-Sanchez, Assistant Director - Operations
City of Bloomington Utilities – Monroe Water Treatment Plant
PO Box 1216
Bloomington, Indiana 47402

Dear Mr. Ortiz-Sanchez:

Re: **Inadequate Response Non-Compliance Letter**
Monroe Water Treatment Plant
NPDES Permit No. IN0060810
Bloomington, Monroe County

An inspection of the above-referenced facility or location was conducted on June 27, 2024, by a representative of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management pursuant to IC 13-18-3-9.

Your facility was sent a Non-Compliance Letter concerning issues observed during the above noted inspection. The letter and inspection report are enclosed. A written detailed response documenting the corrections required in the inspection was due thirty (30) days from receipt of the Non-Compliance Letter. Your response was deemed insufficient. More specifically, a written detailed response documenting correction of the concerns listed and/or a plan for assuring future compliance must be submitted to this office. The response stated that the facility utilizes sodium thiosulfate rather than sodium bisulfate, which is the chemical that the Permittee recorded in the permit application. This can be corrected when the facility contacts IDEM's Industrial Permit Section regarding the other issues. However, a written response regarding items 1 through 3 noted in the letter of the attached inspection is requested.

Within 30 days of receipt of this letter, a written detailed response to our July 8, 2024, letter must be submitted to this office. Failure to respond adequately to this letter may result in formal enforcement action. Please direct your response to this letter via email to wwViolationResponse@idem.IN.gov. Any questions should be directed to Christina Sandlin at 812-216-5646 or by email to csandlin@idem.in.gov. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KG R', is positioned above the typed name.

Kim Rohr, Section Chief
Wastewater Inspections Section
Office of Water Quality

Enclosure



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Eric J. Holcomb
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July 08, 2024

Via Email to: sanchezh@bloomington.in.gov
Mr. Hector Ortiz Sanchez, Assistant Director - Operations
City of Bloomington Utilities - Monroe Water Treatment Plant
PO Box 1216
Bloomington, Indiana 47402

Dear Mr. Ortiz Sanchez:

Re: **Inspection Summary/ Noncompliance Letter**
Monroe Water Treatment Plant
NPDES Permit No. IN0060810
Bloomington, Monroe County

An inspection of the above-referenced facility or location was conducted by a representative of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Southeast Regional Office, pursuant to IC 13-18-3-9. A summary of the inspection is provided below:

Date(s) of Inspection: June 27, 2024
Type of Inspection: Reconnaissance Inspection
Inspection Results: Violations were observed.

The following concerns were noted:

1. The Permit evaluation generated an unsatisfactory rating. The facility has a point source discharge that is not regulated by a NPDES permit. This is a violation of Part II. A. 6 of the permit which states, in part, the permit may be modified or terminated for cause, including, but not limited to, violation of any terms or conditions of the permit, failure of the permittee to disclose fully all relevant facts or misrepresentation of any relevant facts in the permit application or during the permit issuance process. The facility is currently authorized to discharge from Outfalls 001 and 003. Discharges from Outfall 001 are to include filter backwash and sedimentation basin wastewater. Per the permit application, the filter backwash water flows by gravity to the backwash holding basin. The water is then pumped to a clarifier from the backwash holding basin. After the clarifier, sodium bisulfite is injected into the effluent to neutralize the chlorine and the water discharges through Outfall 001. Discharges from Outfall 003 include the facility's finished water reservoir. There is an overflow point within the finished water reservoir, and discharges from Outfall 003 are considered emergency overflow discharges, but has a table in the permit with appropriate parameters for analysis.

The facility utilizes the two sedimentation ponds for overflow filter backwash water from the backwash holding basin. The backwash holding basin has an overflow/bypass pipe that directs flow to the upper sedimentation pond. Once the upper pond reaches a certain level, then water will flow to the lower sedimentation pond. The lower sedimentation pond has an overflow pipe that discharges into Sugarcamp Hollow that is not associated with Outfall 001. This is an unpermitted outfall. The facility has been sampling and analyzing effluent flow from the sedimentation ponds and recording the results as Outfall 003. Outfall 003's limits table has finished water parameters and not sedimentation parameters and is only permitted for finished water discharge. It is noted that this illicit discharge intermittently discharges. **The facility needs to contact IDEM's Industrial Permit Section to correct these issues.**

2. Operation was rated as unsatisfactory due to the sedimentation ponds appearing to be at maximum capacity. It was noted during the inspection that the upper pond appeared to be over halfway full of solids and the lower pond appeared to be at maximum capacity. Part II. B. 1. of the permit requires that all facilities and systems (and related appurtenances) for collection and treatment that are installed or used by the permittee and necessary for achieving compliance with the terms and conditions of the permit in accordance with 327 IAC 5-2-8 (9) must be maintained in good working order and efficiently operated at all times. Inspector recommends dredging both of the ponds to prevent any unintended releases of solids.
3. The Records/Reports evaluation generated an unsatisfactory review due to inaccurate reporting. This is a violation of Part II. C. 5. of the permit states, in part, that where a permittee has submitted incorrect information in any report to the Commissioner, the permittee shall promptly submit such facts or corrected information to the Commissioner. The facility has been sampling and analyzing an illicit discharge point that is not acknowledged within the current permit. Outfall 003 is authorized to discharge finished drinking water from the facility's finished water reservoir. The facility has been sampling effluent flow from the two sedimentation ponds and recording those results on NetDMR as Outfall 003.

Within 30 days of receipt of this letter, a written detailed response documenting correction of the concerns listed above and/or a plan for assuring future compliance must be submitted to this office. Failure to respond adequately to this letter may result in formal enforcement action. Please direct your response to this letter to our letterhead address or via email to wwViolationResponse@idem.IN.gov. Any questions should be directed to Christina Sandlin at 812-216-5646 or by email to csandlin@idem.IN.gov. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Mark A. Amick, Director
Southeast Regional Office

Enclosure



NPDES Industrial Facility Inspection Report

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

NPDES Permit Number: IN0060810	Facility Type: Industrial	Facility Classification: Minor	TEMPO AI ID A-SO				
Date(s) of Inspection: June 27, 2024							
Type of Inspection: Reconnaissance Inspection							
Name and Location of Facility Inspected: Monroe Water Treatment Plant 7470 S Shields Ridge Rd Bloomington IN 47401		Receiving Waters/POTW: Sugarcamp Hollow	Permit Expiration Date: 8/31/2025 Design Flow: NA				
On Site Representative(s): First Name Last Name Title Email Phone Don Gramlich Superintendent gramlicd@bloomington.in.gov 812-272-4858 Was a verbal summary of the inspection given to the on-site rep? Yes							
Certified Operator: Don Gramlich	Number: 020920	Class: A-SO	Effective Date: 7-1-21 Expiration Date: 6-30-24 Email: gramlicd@bloomington.in.gov				
Cyber Security Contact Name: NA Email: 							
Responsible Official: Mr. Hector Ortiz Sanchez, Assistant Director - Operations PO Box 1216 Bloomington, Indiana 47402		Permittee: City of Bloomington Utilities - Monroe Water Tr Email: sanchezh@bloomington.in.gov Phone: 812-339-1444 Fax: Contacted? No					
INSPECTION FINDINGS							
<input type="radio"/> Conditions evaluated were found to be satisfactory at the time of the inspection. (5) <input type="radio"/> Violations were discovered but corrected during the inspection. (4) <input type="radio"/> Potential problems were discovered or observed. (3) <input checked="" type="radio"/> Violations were discovered and require a submittal from you and/or a follow-up inspection by IDEM. (2) <input type="radio"/> Violations were discovered and may subject you to an appropriate enforcement response. (1)							
AREAS EVALUATED DURING INSPECTION (S = Satisfactory, M = Marginal, U = Unsatisfactory, N = Not Evaluated)							
S	Receiving Waters	N	Facility/Site	N	Self-Monitoring	N	Enforcement
S	Effluent/Discharge	U	Operation	N	Flow Measurement		
U	Permit	N	Maintenance	N	Laboratory	N	Effluent Limits Compliance
		N	Sludge	U	Records/Reports	N	Other:
DETAILED AREA EVALUATIONS							
Receiving Waters: Comments: The receiving stream was free of notable foam, algae or solids.							
Effluent/Discharge: Evaluation of Multiple Outfalls:							
Outfall #	Insp. Date	Outfall Inspection Comments					
001	6/27/2024	The effluent was clear and free of color.					
003	6/5/2024	There were no discharges at the time of the inspection.					
Comments:							
Permit: Comments: The Permit evaluation generated an unsatisfactory rating. The facility has a point source discharge that is not regulated by a NPDES permit. This is a violation of Part II. A. 6 of the permit which states, in part, the permit may							

be modified or terminated for cause, including, but not limited to, violation of any terms or conditions of the permit, failure of the permittee to disclose fully all relevant facts or misrepresentation of any relevant facts in the permit application or during the permit issuance process. The facility is currently authorized to discharge from Outfalls 001 and 003. Discharges from Outfall 001 are to include filter backwash and sedimentation basin wastewater. Per the permit application, the filter backwash water flows by gravity to the backwash holding basin. The water is then pumped to a clarifier from the backwash holding basin. After the clarifier, sodium bisulfite is injected into the effluent to neutralize the chlorine and the water discharges through Outfall 001. Discharges from Outfall 003 include the facility's finished water reservoir. There is an overflow point within the finished water reservoir, and discharges from Outfall 003 are considered emergency overflow discharges, but has a table in the permit with appropriate parameters for analysis.

The facility utilizes the two sedimentation ponds for overflow filter backwash water from the backwash holding basin. The backwash holding basin has an overflow/bypass pipe that directs flow to the upper sedimentation pond. Once the upper pond reaches a certain level, then water will flow to the lower sedimentation pond. The lower sedimentation pond has an overflow pipe that discharges into Sugarcamp Hollow that is not associated with Outfall 001. This an unpermitted outfall. The facility has been sampling and analyzing effluent flow from the sedimentation ponds and recording the results as Outfall 003. Outfall 003's limits table has finished water parameters and not sedimentation parameters and is only permitted for finished water discharge. It is noted that this illicit discharge intermittently discharges. **The facility needs to contact IDEM's Industrial Permit Section to correct these issues.**

Facility/Site:

Comments:

The facility grounds are well maintained. The facility has a standby generator that is serviced annually.

Operation:

Comments:

Operation was rated as unsatisfactory due to the sedimentation ponds appearing to be at maximum capacity. It was noted during the inspection that the upper pond appeared to be over halfway full of solids and the lower pond appeared to be at maximum capacity. Part II. B. 1. of the permit requires that all facilities and systems (and related appurtenances) for collection and treatment that are installed or used by the permittee and necessary for achieving compliance with the terms and conditions of the permit in accordance with 327 IAC 5-2-8 (9) must be maintained in good working order and efficiently operated at all times. Inspector recommends dredging both of the ponds to prevent any unintended releases of solids.

Records/Reports:

The following records/reports were reviewed:

Comments:

The Records/Reports evaluation generated an unsatisfactory review due to inaccurate reporting. This is a violation of Part II. C. 5. of the permit states, in part, that where a permittee has submitted incorrect information in any report to the Commissioner, the permittee shall promptly submit such facts or corrected information to the Commissioner. The facility has been sampling and analyzing an illicit discharge point that is not acknowledged within the current permit. Outfall 003 is authorized to discharge finished drinking water from the facility's finished water reservoir. The facility has been sampling effluent flow from the two sedimentation ponds and recording those results on NetDMR as Outfall 003.

Effluent Limits Compliance:

No 1. Were DMRs reviewed as part of the inspection?

Comments:

IDEM REPRESENTATIVE

Inspector Name:

Christina Sandlin

Email:

csandlin@idem.IN.gov

Phone Number:

812-216-5646

IDEM MANAGER REVIEW

IDEM Manager:

Mark A. Amick

Date:

6/6/2024

From: [Don Gramlich](#)
To: [IDEM Wastewater Reports](#)
Subject: Re: Monroe Water Treatment Plant IN0060810 6-27-24 CEI Monroe Co.
Date: Tuesday, July 9, 2024 8:14:11 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

**** This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email. ****

We do not use sodium bisulfate. We use sodium thiosulfate for de-chlorination.

On Mon, Jul 8, 2024 at 3:47 PM IDEM Wastewater Reports <WWReports@idem.in.gov> wrote:

The attached document includes a letter and inspection report resulting from a recent inspection by IDEM staff. Please be sure these documents are reviewed by the appropriate individuals. If the letter requires a response, we encourage you to respond via email by sending your response to wwViolationResponse@idem.IN.gov.

Thank you.

Charnell Carter

On behalf of



Kim Rohr
Section Chief
Wastewater Inspections
Office of Water Quality

Office: 317-234-2558

Cell: 317-605-6489

krohr@idem.in.gov

Indiana Department of Environmental Management

100 N. Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46204

<https://www.in.gov/idem/cleanwater/2337.htm>

IDEM values your feedback.

Please take two minutes and complete this brief survey.



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Don Gramlich
Superintendent
Monroe Water Treatment Plant
Bloomington, IN 47401
o-812-824-9311
c-812-272-4858
gramlicd@bloomington.in.gov