



## ***Town of Sunman***

604. N. Meridian St. P.O. Box 147, Sunman, IN 47041

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clerk@townofsunman.org

townofsunman.org

**Date:** January 08, 2026

**Title:** Town of Sunman: Quarter 4, 2025 Progress Report

NPDES Permit No. IN0021679  
Agreed Order Case No. 2024-30354-W

Samantha,

I am writing to inform you of several steps we have taken since our last quarterly update submitted in October 2025, following approval of our Compliance Plan on July 1, 2025. This update addresses Phase 2, 3 and 4 tasks scheduled for completion during Q4 of 2025.

### **Actions Implemented:**

#### **Phase 2 Tasks – Lap Practices Improvement**

- *The operations team continued to work to improve phosphorus testing implemented earlier in 2025. Phosphorous testing method improvements were made and improved testing accuracy for phosphorous this quarter.*

#### **Remaining Tasks for Phase 3 WWTP Operations Optimization, Reduce Violation of Effluent Limits**

- **12/31/25 - Operator Training of Town Staff.** Completed as scheduled.
  - Staff training continued through the quarter. A staff member has continued to take classes in preparation for becoming a licensed wastewater treatment plant operator.
  - Plant operator continues to train staff on plant operation and maintenance.

- **01/01/26** - *Optimize Treatment for Effluent Limits with current treatment system and equipment.* Completed as scheduled.
  - Continued efforts to improve plant operations. Recent effluent levels have been under our permit limits, in part due to improved operations including regular solids wasting.
  - November – pH probe found to be inaccurate and was replaced

**Phase 4: Preliminary Engineering Report - Wastewater Treatment**

- **12/9/2025** – Sunman sent letter to IDEM requesting NPDES Permit Modification to remove polishing ponds. Will continue to work with IDEM and submit necessary NPDES Permit Modification Application.

**Phase 4: Preliminary Engineering Report - Wastewater Collection System**

- Ongoing efforts are on schedule for completion in 2026.
  - 11/18/25 and 11/25/25 – System review meetings with engineering team, Sunman WWTP Operator and Sunman Staff.
  - Engineering team – ongoing investigation and analysis in development of PER

In addition to addressing required compliance plan items, we have continued to pursue improved maintenance, data collection, and record keeping. Plant staff have worked on facility preparations to install equipment for phosphorous removal. We are particularly focused on collecting phosphorus data as we prepare to implement our recently approved IDEM construction permit for a proposed Ferric Sulfate storage and feed system to ensure compliance with a pending Total Phosphorus (TP) limit of 1.0 mg/L effective January 1, 2027.

**Missed Milestone Deadlines:**

The letter to IDEM regarding determination of need for polishing ponds was submitted four (4) days later. It was due on 12/5/2025, and submitted to IDEM on 12/9/2025.

**Summary of Planned Actions:**

We will continue to develop the Preliminary Engineering Report during the next quarter. This will include prioritizing wastewater treatment and collection system needs along with cost estimates, alternatives and recommendations. We are also focused on continuing to ensure that we maintain our collection system and wastewater treatment plant equipment.

**Schedule:**

Please see attached Compliance Plan schedule noting work completed since last update.

Thank you for your review. Please let us know of any comments or questions.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cheryl A. Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cheryl Taylor  
Clerk-Treasurer

**Attachments:**

Compliance Plan Schedule with Q4 Updates for 2025

**Town of Sunman Compliance Plan**

**Prepared By: Fleis & Vandenberg and Town of Sunman**

Updated 6/6/25, Updated 10/10/2025, Updated 1/10/2026

	Duration	Start	End	Completion Date	Reporting Comments
<b>Phase 1 Wastewater Utility Maintenance Improvements</b>	<b>14 Months</b>	<b>11/1/2024</b>	<b>12/31/2025</b>		
SCADA provider repaired Lift Station auto dialer system.	3 Months	1/1/2025	1/27/2025	1/27/2025	<u>1/27/2025:</u> SCADA provider repaired Lift Station auto dialer system. VFD and EIC replaced, autodialer replaced.
SCADA at WWTP repaired.	9 Months	4/1/2025	12/31/2025	12/31/2025	An autodialer is needed at WWTP. Trouble ticket submitted to GPC on 04/14/2025. WiFi installed 06/03/2025. <u>9/9/2025: Router ordered. New Mission unit expected within 30 days.</u> <u>12/31/25: Completed.</u>
Town staff regular lift station inspections 2-3x/week.	6 Months	1/1/2025	6/30/2025	7/1/2025	Progressing with consistency and documentation. Lift stations visited 3 times weekly with time/date documentation.
Main Lift Station Pump Rebuild & Re-install	3 Months	1/1/2025	3/31/2025	3/31/2025	Completed as scheduled.
Replacement bearing & ancillary parts for East clarifier	6 Months	10/1/2024	4/1/2025	4/10/2025	Proposal was signed 11/21/2024. Bearing replaced, clarifier cleaned, leaking air line repaired.
Clarifier weir trough solids removal weekly	3 Months	1/31/2025	3/31/2025	3/31/2025	Ongoing weekly maintenance implemented.
Effluent Flow Meter calibration	1 Month	10/31/2024	12/31/2025	3/31/2025	Influent/effluent flow meter calibration completed
Initial cleanout of solids from chlorine tank	3 Months	10/31/2024	12/31/2025	11/6/2024	Cleaned again 09/25/2025; plant brought back
Chlorine scales and equipment repair	3 Months	1/1/2025	3/31/2025	3/31/2025	Living Waters replaced the scale and repaired equipment
Prevent solids collection in chlorine tank	12 Months	1/1/2025	12/31/2025	4/1/2025	Plant back in compliance; solids issue resolve
Repair and replacement of chlorination equipment	3 Months	1/1/2025	4/1/2025	4/1/2025	Living Waters completed. Completed 4/1/25
Prepare Preventative Maintenance Plan/Schedule	4 Months	4/1/2025	8/1/2025	7/1/2025	Daily check sheet created; scheduled maintenance on all equipment.

Implement Preventative Maintenance Plan/Schedule

1 Month 8/1/2025 9/1/2025 9/3/2025

8/25/2025:  
Replaced 8 air valves (6 at package plant, 2 at digester).  
Replaced 2 six-inch check valves at Waste Sludge (WAS) Pumps.  
Replace both air solenoids for automatic wasting (clarifiers).  
Installed timer for EQ basin (time-based pumping option).  
Installed 2 timers on each clarifier for automatic wasting.  
9/3/2025: Fully implemented.

Implement Work Order System

2 Months 11/1/2024 2/1/2025 11/25/2024

Work order system fully implemented.

**Phase 2 Lab Practices Improvement**

Implement Phosphorous Testing

3 Months 1/1/2025 3/31/2025 3/31/2025

Regular testing performed

Implement lab recordkeeping and records retention

6 Months 1/1/2025 7/1/2025 3/31/2025

3 years of records to be maintained at WWTP

**Phase 3 WWTP Operations Optimization, Reduce Violation of Effluent Limits**

Operator training of Town Staff

12 Months 1/1/2025 12/31/2025 12/31/2025

Working with the Alliance - Pete Crowley, IDEM Resources  
10/10/2025: Continued training of staff includes proposed phosphorus removal chemicals.  
12/31/25: A staff member is nearing completion of classwork required to become a licensed WWTP Operator.

Restore Sludge Drying Beds to operational service. Clean-out and return to functional condition sludge drying beds.

6 Months 7/1/2025 6/4/2025 6/4/2025

Completed June 4, 2025

Develop and implement sludge wasting plan

3 months 5/1/2025 8/1/2025 5/1/2025

started May 1, 2025; Wasting plan is waiting on a diagnosis of digester operation.  
5/1/2025: Sludge wasting plan developed and implemented (15 minutes per week from each clarifier).

	Eliminate solids accumulation on effluent reeration stairs.	4 months	4/1/2025	8/1/2025	9/25/2025	Stairs have been cleaned and working to prevent the accumulation of solids in the future 9/25/2025: Chlorine tank and reeration stairs cleaned; plant brought back into compliance.
	Improve access to effluent reeration channel and discharge	6 months	4/1/2025	6/4/2025	6/11/2025	6/11/2025: Improved access to effluent reeration channel and discharge.
	Optimize Treatment for Effluent Limits with current treatment system and equipment	8 Months	5/1/2025	1/1/2026	1/1/2026	10/10/2025: Improved solids wasting, maintenance of equipment. 1/1/26: While violations occurred in November 2025, the pH probe has been identified as the issue and has since been corrected. This was reported on the DMRS.
	Chlorination Equipment: Replace plant recycle water feed with potable water feed	6 Months	4/1/2025	10/1/2025	8/25/2025	Reduce maintenance and improve reliability 8/25/2025: Plant potable water supply has been connected to the chlorine feed system.
<b>Phase 4</b>	<b>Preliminary Engineering Report to Study Treatment &amp; Collection Improvements</b>	<b>9 Months</b>	<b>5/22/2025</b>	<b>3/1/2026</b>	<b>In Progress</b>	Funded 5.22.25; underway 8/27/2025: PER meeting with consulting engineers, Fiel & VandenBrink Engineering, Inc. 12/31/25: In progress.
	<b>Preliminary Engineering Report - Wastewater Treatment</b>	9 Months	5/22/2025	3/1/2026	In Progress	12/31/25: In progress.
	Evaluate plant flow between mechanical plant, EQ tank, lagoons and effluent disinfection channel.	9 Months	5/22/2025	3/1/2026	In Progress	12/31/25: In progress.
	Evaluate overall WWTP equipment, operations and performance. Identify current and long-term needs and project alternatives	9 Months	5/22/2025	3/1/2026	In Progress	12/31/25: In progress.
	Recommend necessary improvements, project costs and funding alternatives	9 Months	5/22/2025	3/1/2026	In Progress	12/31/25: In progress.

Determine if NPDES modifications are needed for removal of two polishing ponds and submit application for revision if necessary based on determinations.

6 Months 6/5/2025 12/5/2025 12/9/2025

Submitted Bypass Request letter to IDEM 6.5.25 requesting 6 month timeframe for analysis. Working to analyze plant operation and flow and verify long-term need. 12/9/25: Town sent letter to IDEM to formally request that polishing ponds be removed from permit.

**Preliminary Engineering Report - Wastewater Collection System**

Evaluate sanitary sewer collection system

9 Months 5/22/2025 3/1/2026 In Progress

Grant application due (PER)07/15/2025

Evaluate I/I and rehabilitation needs



9 Months 5/22/2025 3/1/2026 In Progress

In progress. 12/31/25: In progress. 12/31/25: In progress.

**Phase 5 If needed - Wastewater Improvements Projects**

Project Funding	TBD	TBD	TBD
Design of Improvements and Bidding	12 Months	3/1/2026	3/1/2027
Bidding and Loan Close	6 Months	7/1/2026	1/1/2027
Construction of Improvements	3 Months	1/1/2027	4/1/2027
	14 Months	5/1/2027	7/1/2028

Approved By:  
Town of Sunman Town Council

By:  /   
Title: President

Date: 01.08.2026