



## 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](http://www.idem.IN.gov)

**Eric J. Holcomb**  
*Governor*

**Brian Rockensuess**  
*Commissioner*

June 28, 2024

Via Email to: [clerk@lafontaine.in.gov](mailto:clerk@lafontaine.in.gov)  
Mr. John Krhin , Town Council President  
Town of Lafontaine  
13 W Branson St.  
LaFontaine, Indiana Wabash

Dear Mr. :

Re: Inspection Summary Letter  
LaFontaine STP  
NPDES Permit No. IN0020371  
LaFontaine, Wabash County

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

Date(s) of Inspection: June 25, 2024  
Type of Inspection: Reconnaissance Inspection  
Inspection Results: Potential problems were discovered or observed.

Effective immediately, IDEM is initiating a program strongly encouraging domestic wastewater utilities to perform cybersecurity vulnerability assessments, and to take actions to mitigate identified vulnerabilities and increase the cybersecurity resilience of Indiana's water sector. Utilities can choose any assessment tool appropriate for the water sector, but IDEM is highlighting the following websites for information and helpful vulnerability assessment tools made available from the U.S. EPA and the American Water Works Association: <https://www.epa.gov/waterresilience/epa-cybersecurity-water-sector> and <https://www.awwa.org/Resources-Tools/Resource-Topics/Risk-Resilience/Cybersecurity-Guidance>. IDEM will continue to share important updates on the cybersecurity of the water sector.

A copy of the NPDES Wastewater Facility Inspection Report is enclosed for your records. Please direct any response to this letter and any questions to Andy Schmidt at 317-691-1905 or by email to [atschmid@idem.IN.gov](mailto:atschmid@idem.IN.gov).

Sincerely,

Kim Rohr, Chief  
Wastewater Inspection Section  
Office of Water Quality

Enclosure



# NPDES Wastewater Facility Inspection Report

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

NPDES Permit Number: <b>IN0020371</b>		Facility Type: Municipality		Facility Classification: Minor		TEMPO AI ID 55268																	
Date(s) of Inspection: June 25, 2024																							
Type of Inspection: Reconnaissance Inspection																							
Name and Location of Facility Inspected: <b>LaFontaine STP</b> 3125 E 1050 S LaFontaine IN 46940				Receiving Waters: Grant Creek		Permit Expiration Date: 7/21/2026																	
County: Wabash						Design Flow: 0.176MGD																	
On Site Representative(s): <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">First Name</td> <td style="width: 15%;">Last Name</td> <td style="width: 20%;">Title</td> <td style="width: 30%;">Email</td> <td style="width: 15%;">Phone</td> <td colspan="3"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lance</td> <td>Gray</td> <td>Certified Operator</td> <td>lafontaineutilities@outlook.com</td> <td>260-330-9762</td> <td colspan="3"></td> </tr> </table>								First Name	Last Name	Title	Email	Phone				Lance	Gray	Certified Operator	lafontaineutilities@outlook.com	260-330-9762			
First Name	Last Name	Title	Email	Phone																			
Lance	Gray	Certified Operator	lafontaineutilities@outlook.com	260-330-9762																			
Was a verbal summary of findings presented to the on-site representative? <b>Yes</b>																							
Certified Operator: Lance Gray		Number: 16801	Class: II	Effective Date: 7-1-22	Expiration Date: 6-30-25	Email:																	
Cyber Security Contact: Name: _____ Email: _____																							
Responsible Official: Mr. John Krhin , Town Council President 13 W Branson St.  LaFontaine, Indiana Wabash				Permittee: Town of Lafontaine Email: clerk@lafontaine.in.gov Phone: 765-981-4591 Fax: _____																			
				Contacted? No																			
<b>INSPECTION FINDINGS</b>																							
<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 checked="" type="radio"/> Potential problems were discovered or observed. (3) <input 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)																							
<b>AREAS EVALUATED DURING INSPECTION</b>																							
<i>(S = Satisfactory, M = Marginal, U = Unsatisfactory, N = Not Evaluated)</i>																							
S	Receiving Waters	S	Facility/Site	S	Self-Monitoring	N	Enforcement																
S	Effluent	M	Operation	N	Flow Measurement	N	Pretreatment																
N	Permit	S	Maintenance	S	Laboratory	S	Effluent Limits Compliance																
S	Collection System	S	Sludge Disposal	S	Records/Reports	N	Other:																
<b>DETAILED AREA EVALUATIONS</b>																							
<b>Receiving Waters:</b>																							
Comments: As viewed from the location of the discharge of Outfall 002, Grant Creek appeared normal for the season. Water was clear, with no visible evidence of any effects from the discharge at the outfall.																							
<b>Effluent:</b>																							
Comments: Effluent was clear at Outfall 002 at the time of the inspection.																							
<b>Collection System:</b>																							
Comments: Lift station #3 (main lift station) and lift station #2 were inspected and both were found to be in good working condition, with "clean" wet wells, all pumps in service, and with SCADA connection. Also, lift stations are inspected daily by the operator.																							
<b>Facility/Site:</b>																							
Comments: The facility grounds appeared to be well maintained. Access was good to the facility and to the outfall at Grant's																							

Creek. There is a generator on site for power outages.

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**Operation:**

Comments:

Operation was rated marginal for high mixed liquor concentrations in aeration tanks and for resulting foam on the surface of the secondary clarifier. Looking at MRO data, it was noted that MLSS was 10,184 in March 2024, 10,984 in April, and 7,260 in May 2024. This condition appears to have been caused by part of the recent plant upgrade project, where the RAS line flows into a splitter box then it splits RAS flow into both aeration tanks. The operator had noticed signs of high MLSS in one tank and low MLSS in the other tank and testing verified that the configuration of the splitter box had been causing higher concentrations of RAS to flow into one aeration tank, and lower concentrations into the other tank. By the time that the operator was able to verify that, MLSS concentrations had risen above normal benchmark levels. It was noted during the inspection that MLSS concentrations have been reduced in the past month, and the operator will continue until MLSS reaches ideal levels. In addition, the operator has been using a pump to circulate mixed liquor between the aeration tanks to help achieve even levels, and it was recommended to continue doing separate MLSS and 30 Minute SSV testing for each aeration tank. With the plant upgrade project in it's end stages, that situation is considered to be part of the normally expected trouble-shooting and operational fine-tuning that can be part of a facility upgrade project.

The operator will continue with process control testing, and experiment with operating parameters to develop a new Operational Summary, which will detail most efficient levels for those parameters with the newly upgraded system.

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**Maintenance:**

Comments:

All treatment units and equipment appeared to be in good working condition at the time of the inspection. The facility and grounds appeared well-kept and well-tended.

There was a problem with clarifier skimmers noted during the inspection, but it appeared that is most probably attributable to the operational issues noted above, due to the recent plant upgrade. The operator indicated that he is currently working to determine the most efficient ways to keep the sludge blanket depth at efficient levels using the new RAS system.

In addition, the operator indicated that a new online preventative maintenance (PM) system - Silversmith Active Management is intended to be put into use for the sewage treatment plant.

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**Self-Monitoring:**

Comments:

The Self Monitoring Program was rated as satisfactory. All sampling practices, including raw and intermediate unit process testing, are conducted accurately and at the frequency required by the permit.

During the recent upgrade, new auto samplers were included for both raw and final effluent sampling. The samplers were set to collect a flow proportioned sample, with aliquots every 1000 gallons.

It was recommended to obtain NIST traceable thermometers to be kept inside the sample compartments of the samplers to assure proper temps for sample holding.

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**Laboratory:**

The following laboratory records were reviewed:

Ammonia Bench Sheets      CBOD Bench Sheets      TSS Bench Sheets

pH Bench Sheets

S 1. The laboratory practices and protocol reviewed were adequate, including:

- a. A written laboratory QA/QC manual was available.
- b. Samples were found to be properly stored.
- c. Approved analytical methods were found to be used.
- d. Calibration and maintenance of instruments was found to be adequate.
- e. QA/QC procedures were found to be adequate.
- f. Dates of analyses (and times where required) were recorded.
- g. Name of person performing analyses was recorded.

2. Review of lab records and/or on-site field testing equipment and protocols was found to be adequate.

N

Comments:

Review of the Hach DR 3900 Ammonia-Nitrogen and Phosphorus analysis unit indicated that the data log was turned off. The data log was turned on during the inspection, and it was also verified that the Phosphorus analysis was set to the proper Phosphorus setting.

Cursory review of recent bench sheets showed no significant issues.

**Records/Reports:**

The following records/reports were reviewed:

DMRs for the period of March 2024 to May 2024 were reviewed as part of the inspection.

Comments:

The requested records were available and appeared to be complete and accurate. Copies of DMRs and MROs were available at the facility.

**Enforcement:**

Comments:

N/A

**Effluent Limits Compliance:**

Yes 1. Were DMRs reviewed as part of the inspection?

DMRs for the period of March 2024 to May 2024 were reviewed as part of the inspection.

No 2. Were violations noted during the review of DMRs?

Comments:

No violations were noted on DMRs reviewed for this inspection.

**IDEM REPRESENTATIVE**

Inspector Name:

Andy Schmidt

Email:

atschmid@idem.IN.gov

Phone Number:

317-691-1905

Other staff participating in the inspection:

Name(s)

Jeremy Waite

Porfirio Ascencio

Phone Number(s)

jwaite@idem.in.gov

pascenci@idem.in.gov

**IDEM MANAGER REVIEW**

IDEM Manager:

Kim Rohr

Date:

6/27/2024