



May 19, 2025

Ken Griffith, Program Administrator, ODRC
Pickaway Correctional Institution
P.O. Box 209
Orient, OH 43146

**Re: Pickaway Correctional Institution
Notice of Violation (NOV)
NOV
NPDES
Pickaway County
4PP00003**

Transmitted Electronically

Subject: Notice of Violation

Dear Mr. Griffith,

Thank you for accompanying me during Ohio EPA's April 9, 2025, Compliance Evaluation Inspection (CEI) of Pickaway Correctional Institution WWTP (PCI) located at 11781 State Route 762, Orient, Ohio, Pickaway County, Orient, Ohio. The purpose of the CEI was to evaluate compliance with the terms and conditions of your National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and to evaluate the operation and maintenance of the plant. Your permit became effective on February 1, 2023 and will expire on January 31, 2028. The last CEI occurred on July 2, 2019.

Along with myself and Whitney White from the Ohio EPA's Central District Office, Nathan Thornsberry, Class 1 Drinking Water Operator, and James Lyons, Class 1 Wastewater Operator, were present during the CEI. In addition to the CEI, Whitney White conducted a separate Biosolids inspection. As a result of the CEI and Biosolids Inspection, this Notice of Violation, which details the violations found in both the CEI and Biosolids Inspection, is being issued.

Violations

Ohio EPA DSW observed the following violations of Ohio's environmental laws and regulations and permit terms and conditions. It is recommended you promptly address the violations.

- 1. Violation Description:** Discharge Monitoring Report (eDMR) submissions were not submitted for Stations 001, 300, 601, 801, and 901 from August 2024 through March 2025. *This is a violation of ORC 6111.07(A) and Part III 4 (C) of your NPDES permit.*

Additional Information: As a result of the missing eDMRs, the facility is in significant non-compliance (SNC).

Requested Action: Please submit all unsubmitted eDMRs. Please ensure all future eDMRs will be submitted in a timely manner.

2. **Violation Description:** PCI failed to meet the Schedule of Compliance Milestone 1d. - submitting an Annual Status Report (Event Code 95999) which was due on February 2025. *This is a violation of ORC 6111.07 (A), Part I. C. of your NPDES permit.*

Additional Information: The milestone states:

- Not later than 24 months after the permit effective date of this permit, the permittee shall submit an annual status report that:
 - i. Summarizes the results of all bioassay tests conducted during the previous year.
 - ii. Summarizes actions the permittee has taken during the previous year in response to toxicity greater than or equal to 1.0 TUa and/or 2.6 TUc.
 - iii. Summarizes overall progress towards achieving compliance with the final toxicity limits at outfall 4PP00003001.
 - iv. Includes other relevant information regarding compliance with the final toxicity limits.

Requested Action: Please submit the past due Annual Status Report.

3. **Violation Description:** PCI does not have a Certified Operator of Record (ORC). According to Mr. Griffith, the WWTP has not employed an ORC since Jerry Ussher's resignation August 2024. *This is a violation of ORC 6111.07 (A), OAC 3745-7-02 (A)(2), and Part II of your NPDES permit.*

Requested Action: Please obtain a qualified Professional Operator of Record and submit an ORC Notification Form to Ohio EPA.

4. **Violation Description:** The minimum staffing hour requirements for a Class III WWTP are not being met. *This is a violation of ORC 6111.07 (A), OAC 3745-7-04(C)(1), and Part II of your NPDES permit.*

Additional Information: The WWTP is maintained by James Lyons, Wastewater Class I operator, and Nathan Thornsberry, Water Class I operator. Mr. Lyons and Mr. Thornsberry share responsibilities in maintaining the WWTP and the co-located WTP.

Requested Action: Please obtain sufficient WWTP personnel to allow the WWTP to meet minimum staffing requirements.

5. **Violation Description:** At the time of inspection, poor operation and maintenance was observed throughout the WWTP. *This is a violation of ORC 6111.07(A) and Part III of your NPDES permit*

Additional Information: At the time of inspection the following was observed:

- a. Lack of a current, established operation and maintenance program

- b. The following treatment components were broken and out of service: one aerator in the south oxidation ditch, one disc filter, UV disinfection, digester blower, and the WWTP electrical panel for all disc filters.
- c. Excess sludge build up within the south oxidation ditch
- d. Clarifier weirs appeared to be in poor condition.
- e. The sludge storage barn was observed to be at full capacity

Requested Action: Please provide Ohio EPA with a plan to bring all WWTP components back into good working order. The plan should include short and long-term operation and maintenance procedures to ensure treatment components remain in good working order.

6. **Violation Description:** PCI applied Class B biosolids on a beneficial use site that was authorized to another NPDES permitted facility. This is a violation of *ORC 6111.04(C), OAC 3745-40-06, and Part II, L of your permit.*

Additional Information: PCI's 2022 annual sludge report (ASR) indicated that biosolids were applied to site 65-00050 from November 18 to November 30, 2022, however, Site 65-00050 is authorized to the City of Columbus.

Requested Action: Please submit a complete application for the transfer of site 65-00050 from the City of Columbus to PCI. Additionally, please develop a beneficial use standard operating procedure (SOP) describing the process used to ensure biosolids beneficial use sites are authorized prior to the delivery of biosolids from PCI. Guidance for developing an SOP and biosolids SOP templates can be found on the [Ohio EPA Biosolids Website](#).

7. **Violation Description:** The agronomic rate calculation (ARC) submitted for the 2022 beneficial use event at site 65-00050 was incomplete. This is a violation of *ORC 6111.07(A), OAC 3745-40-08(A), and Part II, L of your permit.*

Additional Information: The ARC did not include the total phosphorus in sludge, expected crop yield, or crop nitrogen requirements, therefore an agronomic rate could not be calculated.

Requested Action: Please review and utilize the most recent version of the Ohio EPA ARC and instructions for completing the ARC for future biosolids beneficial use events. Additionally, please see the requested action for Violation 1. This SOP should include all relevant information used to meet a calculated agronomic rate compliant with OAC 3745-40-08 at each beneficial use site.

8. **Violation Description:** Signage was not posted for the required minimum of seven days prior to biosolids being delivered to site 65-00050. This is a violation of *ORC 6111.07(A), OAC 3745-40-11, and Part II, L of your permit.*

Additional Information: The 2022 ARC for site 65-00050 indicated that signs were placed on November 15, 2022, and biosolids were delivered to the site on November 18, 2022.

Requested Action: Please see the requested action for Violation 1. Please include in the SOP how PCI will ensure that signage is posted at biosolids beneficial use sites one week prior to the delivery of biosolids and remain in place at least 30 days after beneficial use is complete.

9. **Violation Description:** Total phosphorus in sludge was not reported for 2022. This is a violation of *ORC 6111.07(A), OAC 3745-40-09(B), OAC 3745-40-08(A), and Part I, B of your permit.*

Additional Information: Total phosphorus in sludge was not reported on PCI's 2022 eDMR nor their 2022 ASR. During the inspection it was stated that all biosolids records were maintained by the previous operator, and they were not recovered prior to his retirement.

Requested Action: Please develop a biosolids sampling SOP that describes the sampling frequency, method, and parameters to be monitored during each reporting period. This plan should include how records will be maintained so that they are available on site for at least five years after they are generated.

10. **Violation Description:** The analytical results provided on the 2022 ASR to demonstrate that vector attraction reduction (VAR) was met via VAR-4 were incomplete. This is a violation of *ORC 6111.07(A), OAC 3745-40-09(A)&(B)(4) and 3745-40-04(C)(4), and Part II, L of your permit.*

Additional Information: Seven SOUR tests are required for each reporting period. The 2022 ASR only contained two SOUR tests for 2022. Additionally, the SOUR test should only be performed on sludges that are between 0.5 to 2.0% total solids. The sludge tested in July of 2022 was 2.5% total solids and 7.2% total solids in November of 2022.

Requested Action: Please develop a SOUR test SOP. An example SOUR test SOP template is available on the [Ohio EPA Biosolids Website](#). Ohio EPA recommends that the SOUR samples be collected from the digester to ensure that the samples are between 0.5-2% solids and are representative of the digester's performance.

11. **Violation Description:** Biosolids beneficial use records were not available for 2023. This is a violation of *ORC 6111.07(A), OAC 3745-40-09(D), and Part I, B & II, L of your permit.*

Additional Information: The 2023 ASR contained a comment from Kenneth Griffith stating that he started on January 13, 2024, and at the time, no sludge records were available.

Requestion Action: Please see the requested action for Violation 4. Please also include in the SOP how PCI will ensure that biosolids beneficial use records required by OAC 3745-40-09(C)(3)-(4) are maintained.

12. **Violation Description:** The 2024 ASR was not submitted by the March 1, 2025, deadline. This is a violation of *ORC 6111.07(A), OAC 3745-40-09(b), and Part II, N of your permit.*

Additional Information: The ASR is due on March 1 of each calendar year. PCI only has contract operators at this time, and they were not aware that they could submit the report without being the

official operator of record. The ASR may be submitted by anyone delegated to submit reports on behalf of PCI.

Requested Action: Please submit the PCI 2024 ASR and indicate that no sludge was removed for the year.

Conclusion

Within 30 days of receipt of this letter, please provide documentation to Ohio EPA DSW of the actions taken and/or will be taken to resolve the violations cited above. Documentation of steps taken to resolve this violation includes but is not limited to: written correspondence, updated policies, and photographs, as appropriate, and may be submitted via the postal service or electronically to joanna.asuncion@epa.ohio.gov. If circumstances delay resolution of violations, PCI is requested to contact Ohio EPA DSW to discuss the situation and propose an alternative schedule to resolve the violations in a timely manner.

Failure to comply with Chapter 6111.07 of the Ohio Revised Code and rules promulgated thereunder may result in an administrative or civil penalty.

Please note that the submission of any requested information to respond to this letter does not constitute waiver of the Ohio EPA's authority to seek administrative or civil penalties as provided in Chapter 6111.09 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Should you have any questions, please contact Joanna Asuncion at (614) 728-3848 and joanna.asuncion@epa.ohio.gov or Whitney White at (614) 705-1141 and whitney.white@epa.ohio.gov.

Sincerely,



Joanna Asuncion
Environmental Specialist II
Compliance and Enforcement
Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water
Central District Office

ec: James Lyons, Pickaway Correctional Institute WWTP
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