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NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Surface Water Quality Bureau

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RON CURRY
Secretary
SARAH COTTRELL
Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

August 5, 2010

Dr. Jorge A. Garcia, Utilities Director
City of Las Cruces
P.O. Box 20000
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88004

Re: Industrial Storm Water, SIC 4952, NPDES Compliance Evaluation Inspection, City of Las Cruces, East Mesa Water Reclamation Facility, NMU001664, Doña Ana County, New Mexico, July 7, 2010

Dear Dr. Garcia:

Enclosed, please find a copy of the report for the referenced inspection that the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB) conducted at your facility on behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). This inspection report will be sent to the USEPA in Dallas for their review. These inspections are used by USEPA to determine compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting program in accordance with requirements of the federal Clean Water Act.

Problems noted during this inspection are discussed in the Further Explanations section of the inspection report. You are encouraged to review the inspection report, required to correct any problems noted during the inspection, and to modify your operational and/or administrative procedures, as appropriate. Further, you are encouraged to notify in writing, both the USEPA and NMED regarding modifications and compliance schedules at the addresses below:

Diana McDonald
US Environmental Protection Agency
Allied Bank Tower
Region VI Enforcement Branch (6EN-WM)
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

Program Manager
New Mexico Environment Department
Surface Water Quality Bureau
Point Source Regulation Section
P.O. Box 5469
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

I appreciate the cooperation of your staff during this inspection. If you have any questions about this inspection report, please contact me at (505) 827-0418.

Sincerely,

/s/ Erin S. Trujillo
Erin S. Trujillo
Surface Water Quality Bureau

cc: Marcia Gail Bohling, USEPA (6EN-AS) by e-mail
Samuel Tate, USEPA (6EN-AS) by e-mail
Carol Peters-Wagnon, USEPA (6EN-WM) by e-mail
Diana McDonald, USEPA (6EN-WM) by e-mail
Frank Fiore, NMED District III Manager by e-mail
Eric R. Lopez, Plant Manager by e-mail (eric.lopez@las-cruces.org)



Form Approved
OMB No. 2040-0003
Approval Expires 7-31-85

NPDES Compliance Inspection Report

Section A: National Data System Coding

Transaction Code	NPDES	yr/mo/day	Inspec. Type	Inspector	Fac Type
1 N 2 5 3 N M U 0 0 1 6 6 4 11 12 1 0 0 7 0 7 17 18 ~ 19 S 20 1					
Remarks					
M A J O R M U N I C I P A L D O M E S T I C W W T P					
Inspection Work Days	Facility Evaluation Rating	BI	QA	Reserved	
67 [] [] [] 69	70 2	71 N 72 N 73 [] [] 74 75 [] [] [] [] 80			

Section B: Facility Data

Name and Location of Facility Inspected (For industrial users discharging to POTW, also include POTW name and NPDES permit number) City of Las Cruces, East Mesa Water Reclamation Facility, 5150 E. Lohman Ave, Las Cruces. From I-25, take Exit 3 (E. Lohman Ave approx 1.9 mi), continue on dirt road to locked gate. Doña Ana County	Entry Time /Date 1215 hours / 07/07/2010	Permit Effective Date September 29, 2008
	Exit Time/Date 1728 hours / 07/07/2010	Permit Expiration Date September 29, 2013
Name(s) of On-Site Representative(s)/Title(s)/Phone and Fax Number(s) Randy Gelaz / WWTP staff / East Mesa Cell 575-202-5033 Dez Stuart / WWTP Operator Supervisor / 575-521-4195 Eric R. Lopez / Plant Manager, City of Las Cruces / 575-528-3599, cell 642-7013 or 644-9806	Other Facility Data Outfall 001 Latitude N 32.33022 Longitude W 106.71729	
Name, Address of Responsible Official/Title/Phone and Fax Number Dr. Jorge A. Garcia / Utilities Director, City of Las Cruces / 575-528-3511 or 3636 680 Motel Blvd, Las Cruces, NM 88005 / 575-528-3502 or 575-528-3511, jogarcia@las-cruces.org	Contacted Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SIC 4952		

Section C: Areas Evaluated During Inspection

(S = Satisfactory, M = Marginal, U = Unsatisfactory, N = Not Evaluated)

U	Permit	N	Flow Measurement	M	Operations & Maintenance	N	CSO/SSO
N	Records/Reports	N	Self-Monitoring Program	N	Sludge Handling/Disposal	N	Pollution Prevention
M	Facility Site Review	N	Compliance Schedules	N	Pretreatment	N	Multimedia
N	Effluent/Receiving Waters	N	Laboratory	U	Storm Water	N	Other:

Section D: Summary of Findings/Comments (Attach additional sheets if necessary)

- SEE ATTACHED FURTHER EXPLANATIONS.
- A COMPLIANCE EVALUATION INSPECTION REPORT FOR DISCHARGES OF TREATED DOMESTIC SEWAGE FROM THIS FACILITY (NPDES PERMIT #NM0030872) WILL BE SUBMITTED UNDER A SEPARATE EPA 3560 FORM.

Name(s) and Signature(s) of Inspector(s) Erin S. Trujillo	Agency/Office/Telephone/Fax NMED/SWQB/505-827-0418	Date 08/05/2010
/s/ Erin S. Trujillo		
Signature of Management QA Reviewer Richard E. Powell	Agency/Office/Phone and Fax Numbers NMED/SWQB/505-827-2798	Date 08/05/2010
/s/ Richard E. Powell		

City of Las Cruces - East Mesa Water Reclamation Facility
NPDES Tracking No. NMU001664
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July 7, 2010

Further Explanations

Introduction

On July 7, 2010, Erin Trujillo, accompanied by Sandra Gabaldón, both of the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB) conducted a Compliance Evaluation Inspection (CEI) at the City of Las Cruces, East Mesa Water Reclamation Facility (Standard Industrial Classification 4952, Activity Code TW) in Doña Ana County, New Mexico.

City of Las Cruces East Mesa Water Reclamation Facility is a newly constructed treatment works treating domestic sewage starting December 21, 2009. East Mesa Water Reclamation Facility has a design flow capacity of 1.0 Million Gallons per Day (MGD) and is classified as a major municipal discharger under the federal Clean Water Act, Section 402, of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program. Storm water runoff from this facility discharges to the Southfork of the Las Cruces Arroyo, thence to the Alameda Arroyo, thence to the Las Cruces Lateral, thence to the Rio Grande in Segment 20.6.4.101 (*State of New Mexico Standards for Interstate and Intrastate Surface Waters, 20.6.4 New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC)*) of the Rio Grande Basin.

The NMED performs a certain number of CEIs each year for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Region VI. The purpose of this inspection was to document the operator's status regarding the USEPA's NPDES Storm Water Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP) for Industrial Activities (*this facility has industrial activities being conducted on-site that meet the description of industrial activities in section T*) and storm water regulations at 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 122.26. This inspection report is based on information provided by the Owner/Operator's representatives, observations made by the NMED inspectors, and records and reports kept by the Owner/Operator and/or NMED.

The inspectors arrived at the facility at 1215 hours on July 7, 2010, introduced themselves to Mr. Randy Gelaz, explained purpose of the inspection and contacted Mr. Eric R. Lopez, Plant Manager. Upon Mr. Lopez's arrival, the inspector made introductions, presented credentials and explained the purpose of the inspection. The inspectors, Mr. Lopez and Mr. Dez Stuart, WWTP Operator Supervisor, toured the facility. An exit interview to discuss preliminary findings was conducted with Mr. Lopez; Mr. Luis J. Guerra, Lead Lab Technician, City of Las Cruces; Mr. Mark A. Rodriguez, Acting Administrator, Utilities Department, and Mr. Gilbert Morales, Water Resources Administrator, Joint Utilities, City of Las Cruces at the City of Las Cruces, Jacob Hands Waste Water Treatment Plant. The inspection ended at 1728 hours on July 7, 2010.

Permit Requirements

Section 301 (a) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (a.k.a. Clean Water Act) states that "*Except as in compliance with this section and sections 302, 306, 307, 318, 402 and 404 of this Act, the discharge of any pollutant by any person shall be unlawful.*"

Provisions within the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991 temporarily delayed the deadline for Phase I industrial activities (with the exception of power plants, airports, and uncontrolled sanitary landfills) operated by municipalities with populations of less than 100,000 people to obtain an NPDES storm water discharge permit. Congress delayed the permitting deadline for these facilities to allow small municipalities additional time to comply with NPDES requirements. The Phase II Final Rule ended this temporary exemption from permitting. Since March 10, 2003, all ISTEA-exempted municipally operated industrial activities were required to obtain permit coverage. These include

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treatment works treating domestic sewage, or any other sewage sludge or wastewater treatment device or system used in the storage, treatment, recycling, and reclamation of municipal or domestic sewage, including land dedicated to the disposal of sewage sludge; that are located within the confines of a facility with a design flow of 1.0 MGD or more; or are required to have an approved pretreatment program under 40 CFR Part 403.

USEPA's NPDES MSGP was re-issued effective September 29, 2008 (See Federal Register/Vol. 73, No. 189/Monday, September 29, 2008, Pg. 56572). Among other things, this permit requires that a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) be prepared for the site and that appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) be installed and maintained to prevent, to the extent practicable, pollutants in storm water runoff from entering waters of the United States. A SWPPP should include such things as:

- A description of potential pollutant sources - includes such things as a site map, an identification of the types of pollutants that are likely to be present in storm water discharges, an inventory of the types of materials handled at the site that potentially may be exposed to precipitation, a list of significant spills and leaks of toxic or hazardous pollutants, sampling data, a narrative description of the potential pollutant sources from specific activities at the facility, and identification of specific potential pollutants; and
- A description of appropriate measures and controls - includes the type and location of existing and proposed non-structural and structural best management practices (BMPs) selected for each of the areas where industrial materials or activities are exposed to storm water. A SWPPP must contain a narrative evaluation of the appropriateness of storm water management practices that divert, infiltrate, reuse, or otherwise manage storm water runoff so as to reduce the discharge of pollutants. Non-structural and structural BMPs to be described and implemented include such things as minimizing exposure, good housekeeping, preventive maintenance, spill prevention and response procedures, periodic inspections, employee training, record keeping, non-storm water evaluations and certifications, sediment and erosion control, as well as implementation/maintenance of traditional storm water management practices, where appropriate. A combination of preventive and treatment BMPs will yield the most effective storm water management for minimizing the offsite discharge of pollutants via storm water runoff.

USEPA's fact sheet for the MSGP, including SWPPP templates and guidance, is available at: http://cfpub1.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/msgp.cfm#permit_factsheet.

Findings

USEPA's Notice of Intent submission deadline for new dischargers, with stormwater discharges starting after January 5, 2009, was a minimum of 60 days prior to commencing discharge, or a minimum of 30 days if a SWPPP had been posted on the Internet during this period. However, as of the date of this inspection, this facility did not have NPDES MSGP coverage. Owner/Operator representatives appeared to be familiar with the storm water regulations and permit program at this and other major municipally-operated treatment works owned by the City of Las Cruces during the exit interview.

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There was no pollution prevention plan prepared in written form and available at this site for inspection, and a pollution prevention plan was not being implemented. Common activities, pollutant sources, and associated pollutants at treatment works include:

- Preparation of chemical, biological and physical treatment processes - Spills and leaks of process chemicals and materials (Disinfectants, polymers and coagulants, alum, ferric chloride, soda ash, lime, sodium aluminate, sodium hypochlorite, caustic soda, chlorine, sodium bisulfite)
- Soil amending and grass fertilizing - Over fertilizing (Commercial brands of balance fertilizers, commercial sludge based products, nitrogen, other nutrients, phosphorous, ammonia, aluminum sulfate, liquid chlorine, liquid polymer, fuel, oil)
- Liquid storage in above ground storage - External corrosion and structural failure, installation problems, spills and overfills due to operator error, failure of piping systems (pipes, pumps, flanges, couplings, hoses, and valves), leaks or spills during pumping of liquids from barges, trucks, or rail cars to a storage facility (Aluminum sulfate, liquid chlorine, bisulfite, liquid polymer, fuel, oil)
- Pest control - Large quantities of pesticide application, pesticide storage (Diazanone, malathion, amdro, dimethylphthalate, diethyl phthalate, dichlorvos, carbaryl, skeetal, batex, liquid copper)
- Sludge drying beds and storage piles - Sludge (Nitrate, TDS, TSS, ammonia, pathogens)
- Sludge transfer - Sludge, vehicles, transfer equipment (Nitrate, TDS, TSS, oil, fuel, hydraulic fluids, ammonia, pathogens)
- Septage transfer - Solid and liquid sanitary waste, vehicles (Nitrate, TDS, TSS, oil, fuel, hydraulic fluids, ammonia, pathogens)
- Equipment/vehicle maintenance and storage - Spills and leaks of lubricants and coolants (solvents, acids, oil, grease, arsenic, lead, cadmium, chromium, chemical oxygen demand (COD), and benzene)
- Miscellaneous - Grit and scum piles from clarifiers, screens, exposed soil (TSS, heavy metals, pathogens, nitrate)

The facility had a lined landscape pond that would retain stormwater. Although this is a fairly clean, well organized plant site, untreated wastewater from drum screen cleanout is allowed to drain on the ground. On-site owner/operator representatives stated that other practices or measures to prevent wastewater from draining to the ground would be investigated. On-site sources of pollutants also include sludge being loaded onto trucks and hauled to an off-site treatment facility for disposal or reuse. BMPs, for example, on-site runoff containment pond, trenches, drip pans, perimeter berms, curbing, runoff diversion structures, regular training, inspections, or other practices to prevent or reduce the pollution of waters of the United States from this facility were not documented in a SWPPP. If not properly managed or treated in accordance with an NPDES permit, the activities and pollutants associated with treatment works as described above (many of which do, or may occur at this facility) are a potential threat to water quality through storm water discharges.