



BILL RICHARDSON  
Governor  
DIANE DENISH  
Lieutenant Governor

NEW MEXICO  
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

*Surface Water Quality Bureau*

Harold Runnels Building, N2050  
1190 South St. Francis Drive (87505)  
P.O. Box 5469, Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469  
Phone (505) 827-0187 Fax (505) 827-0160  
www.nmenv.state.nm.us



RON CURRY  
Secretary  
SARAH COTTRELL  
Deputy Secretary

**CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

September 20, 2010

M. Sue Padilla, Assistant County Manager and Utilities Director  
County of Doña Ana  
845 North Motel Boulevard  
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88007

Re: Industrial Storm Water, SIC 4952, NPDES Compliance Evaluation Inspection, County of Doña Ana, South Central Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility, NMU001675, August 27, 2010

Dear Ms. Padilla:

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 Ms. Mireya Carnero, Lead Operator of the South Central Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility 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 Adams, USEPA (6EN-AS) by e-mail  
Samuel Tates, 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  
Kurt Moffat, Operations Manager, Utilities Dept, County of Doña Ana by e-mail (kurtm@donaanacounty.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   7   5   11   12   1   0   0   8   2   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) South Central Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility. From I-25, travel west on NM 227 (Vado Exit), turn south on NM 478, turn west on NM 189 (Esslinger Road), turn south on Montes Road, turn east on E. Sloan Road and travel approximately 0.5 miles. Doña Ana County	Entry Time /Date <b>0800 hours / 08/27/2010</b>	Permit Effective Date <b>October 30, 2000 (2000 MSGP) September 29, 2008 (2008 MSGP)</b>
	Exit Time/Date <b>1220 hours / 08/27/2010</b>	Permit Expiration Date <b>October 30, 2005 (2000 MSGP) September 29, 2013 (2008 MSGP)</b>
Name(s) of On-Site Representative(s)/Title(s)/Phone and Fax Number(s) Mireya Carnero, Lead Operator, Doña Ana County, Utilities Department, 575-525-6194, cell 621-5084 and fax 525-6199	Other Facility Data <b>Entrance</b> Latitude 32.090228° Longitude -106.661560° <b>SIC 4952</b>	
Name, Address of Responsible Official/Title/Phone and Fax Number M. Sue Padilla, County of Doña Ana, 845 North Motel Boulevard, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88007 / Assistant County Manager and Utilities Director / 575-647-7142 and fax 525-6199	Contacted Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

**Section C: Areas Evaluated During Inspection**

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

U	Permit	N	Flow Measurement	N	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	M	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 FROM AN OUTFALL TO THE RIO GRANDE (NPDES PERMIT # NM0030490) WILL BE SUBMITTED UNDER A SEPARATE EPA 3560 FORM.**

Name(s) and Signature(s) of Inspector(s) <b>Erin S. Trujillo</b>	Agency/Office/Telephone/Fax <b>NMED/SWQB/505-827-0418</b>	Date <b>09/20/2010</b>
/s/ Erin S. Trujillo		
Signature of Management QA Reviewer <b>Richard E. Powell</b>	Agency/Office/Phone and Fax Numbers <b>NMED/SWQB/505-827-2798</b>	Date <b>09/20/2010</b>
/s/ Richard E. Powell		

**County of Doña Ana, South Central Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility**  
**NPDES Tracking No. NMU001675**  
**Compliance Evaluation Inspection**  
**August 27, 2010**

**Further Explanations**

**Introduction**

On August 27, 2010, Erin Trujillo of the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB) conducted a Compliance Evaluation Inspection (CEI) at the South Central Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility (Standard Industrial Classification 4952, Treatment Works, Activity Code TW) in Doña Ana County, New Mexico. The design flow capacity of the treatment works is 1.05 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 discharges 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. Surface drainage at the facility is generally toward the east-southeast. A levee along the Rio Grande protects the facility from 100-year floods. Chamberino East Lateral at Montes Road, approximately 1 ¾ miles south of the facility, discharges into the Rio Grande.

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 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 inspector arrived at the facility at approximately 0800 hours on August 27, 2010. Upon arrival of Mireya Carnero, Lead Operator, South Central Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility, the inspector made introductions, explained the purpose of the inspection, presented credentials and toured the facility with Ms. Carnero. Mr. Kurt Moffatt, Operations Manager, Utilities Department, County of Doña Ana was contacted, but was unable to attend the inspection. An exit interview to discuss preliminary findings was conducted with Ms. Carnero on site. The inspector left the facility at approximately 1220 hours on the day of the inspection. Preliminary findings were discussed by telephone with Mr. Moffatt on September 3, 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.

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Since March 10, 2003, all ISTEA-exempted municipally operated industrial activities were required to obtain permit coverage. These include 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 October 30, 2000 (see Federal Register/Vol. 65, No. 210/Monday, October 30, 2000, Pg. 64746) and again on 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.

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)

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- Pest control - Large quantities of pesticide application, pesticide storage (Diazanon, malathion, amdoro, 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)

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](http://cfpub1.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/msgp.cfm#permit_factsheet).

### **Findings**

The County of Doña Ana did not obtain permit coverage under the 2000 MSGP prior to the permit expiration date on October 30, 2005. The facility was operational in April of 2004. The County of Dona Ana did not obtain permit coverage under the 2008 MSGP no later than USEPA's deadline on January 5, 2009. On the day of the inspection, there was no pollution prevention plan prepared in written form and available at this site, and a pollution prevention plan was not being implemented. The County of Doña Ana had not submitted a notice of intent (NOI) to obtain permit coverage. USEPA Region 6's letter to Sue Padilla, County of Doña Ana dated August 25, 2010 requests within 45-days of receipt that the County submit a copy of the signature page for the SWPPP, copy of the NOI and acknowledgement letter returned by the eNOI Processing Center to Ms. Diana McDonald, USEPA, Region 6, Enforcement Branch.

On-site sources of pollutants include sludge being loaded onto trucks and hauled to an off-site treatment facility for disposal or reuse. A portion of the sludge processing activities are under cover and on a concrete pad with curb, but septage (liquid sanitary waste) transfer and processing with a polymer; and sludge drying are exposed to precipitation. Collected grit and screen waste is disposed in on-site dumpsters/roll-offs. A portable toilet near the septage transfer area did not have barriers to protect it from vehicle traffic. Empty drums, broken equipment and trash (e.g., empty oil containers) stored on-site could become sources of pollutants. Plant wash water (non-potable/not disinfected) can be accessed from various faucets throughout the grounds of the facility. Plant wash water is also used to spray down the plant's aerated biofilters (wood mulch used for odor treatment). Stormwater discharges that are mixed with non-stormwater (in this case washwaters), other than those non-stormwater discharges listed in Part 1.1.3, are not eligible for coverage under the 2008 MSGP.

On-site drainage is toward low areas created from grading at the site. Although there was no evidence on the day of this inspection that stormwater, biosolids or plant wash water used at the facility grounds had left the property boundaries, management practices (e.g., run-on diversion structures, earth berms, lined ponds, trash removal, written spill prevention and response procedures, regular training, inspections, or others) were not documented in a SWPPP.

<b>NMED/SWQB Official Photograph Log Photo # 1</b>		
Photographer: Erin S. Trujillo	Date: 08/27/2010	Time: 0924 hours
City/County: Near La Mesa and Vado / Doña Ana		State: New Mexico
Location: South Central Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility		
Subject: Facility waste sludge tank and various associated hoses/valves exposed to precipitation.		



<b>NMED/SWQB Official Photograph Log Photo # 2</b>		
Photographer: Erin S. Trujillo	Date: 08/27/2010	Time: 0925 hours
City/County: Near La Mesa and Vado / Doña Ana		State: New Mexico
Location: South Central Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility		
Subject: Septage (liquid sanitary waste) processing area with various hoses, products and storage containers near the three 25,000 gallon sludge and liquid waste storage tanks. Arrow points to polymer mixing tank exposed to precipitation, but is on curbed concrete pad with a drain to the treatment works.		



<b>NMED/SWQB Official Photograph Log Photo # 3</b>		
Photographer: Erin S. Trujillo	Date: 08/27/2010	Time: 0929 hours
City/County: Near La Mesa and Vado / Doña Ana		State: New Mexico
Location: South Central Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility		
Subject: Overview of sludge roll off and sludge drying area exposed to precipitation. Portable toilet not protected from vehicle traffic.		



<b>NMED/SWQB Official Photograph Log Photo # 4</b>		
Photographer: Erin S. Trujillo	Date: 08/27/2010	Time: 0933 hours
City/County: Near La Mesa and Vado / Doña Ana		State: New Mexico
Location: South Central Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility		
Subject: Example of trash (in this case empty oil containers) with damaged equipment and other debris at the facility.		

