



CITY OF DETROIT
WATER AND SEWERAGE DEPARTMENT
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

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November 19, 2014



Steve Weiss
Senior Environmental Engineer
Air Quality Division
Cadillac Place
3058 West Grand Boulevard
Suite 2-300
Detroit, MI 48202-6058

RE: Violation Nuisance Odors – Detroit Wastewater Treatment Plant

Dear Mr. Weiss:

The Detroit Wastewater Treatment Plant has received the November 5th Violation Notice for nuisance odors observed on October 23, 2014 by yourself and Jonathan Lamb of MDEQ, Air Quality Division. DWSD takes the concerns and complaints from citizens adjacent to the wastewater treatment plant very seriously. We have been meeting with the neighboring community biannually to provide a forum to voice their concerns, and to communicate the initiatives implemented and planned by DWSD to address their concerns.

The particular source of the odor observed on the evening of October 23, was due to the routine cleaning of primary sludge thickener # 3 and a wind direction from the southeast which caused the odor to impact the Del Ray Community Center and neighborhood. The six primary thickeners are cleaned twice a year to prevent accumulation of rags which plug and harm equipment and also to minimize the level of anaerobic sludge which adheres to the walls and structures of the clarifier. DWSD has discovered through our ongoing study on odor reduction that keeping the tanks cleaner and maintaining elutriation with aerobic screened secondary effluent helps to reduce the prominence of odors associated with primary sludge thickeners; which in turn reduces neighborhood impacts when the wind drives odors into the neighborhood.

DWSD has been adding Planet Breeze to the sludge blending tanks for over two years during the warm months and this addition has reduced the number of complaints received. The week of October 27, 2014, DWSD began effectiveness testing of an odor masking chemical blend misted at the Copeland fence line.

For future control of odors during thickening tank cleaning, DWSD will plan to use the odor misting system along the back fence line. Additionally, we will explore cleaning the gravity thickener tank faster after it has drained.



Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call me at 313-297-0300.

Sincerely,

Wendy Barrott
Wendy Barrott
General Manager

WB/dehm

Cc: Mr. Raymond Scott, City of Detroit
Ms. LaReina Wheeler, City of Detroit
Ms. Lynn Fiedler, DEQ
Ms. Mary Ann Dolehanty, DEQ
Ms. Teresa Seidel, DEQ
Mr. Thomas Hess, DEQ
Mr. Phil Argiroff, DEQ
Ms. Laura Verona, DEQ
Ms. Jodi Peace, DEQ
Ms. Wilhemina McLemore, DEQ
Mr. Jeff Korniski, DEQ