



Allentown
City without limits.

ROBERT J. KERCHUSKY

Manager of Operations

Bureau of Water Resources

610.437.7641 Fax 610.437.8790

kerchusky@allentowncity.org

Friday, August 10, 2012

Ms. Kate Crowley
Water Management Program Manager
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of Environmental Protection
2 Public Square
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711-0790

Dear Ms. Crowley:

Please accept this letter and attachments as Allentown's submission to the conditions of NPDES Permit 0026000.

The severe thunderstorms that rolled through the Lehigh Valley on the evening of Sunday, August 05, 2012 disrupted the primary electric power supply to the wastewater treatment. The operations staff was unsuccessful in restoring the plant with power on the backup supply for 21 minutes. During this timeframe the wet wells and interceptors were surcharged resulting in the discharge from outfall 003.

If you should have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at (610) 437-7641.

Sincerely,

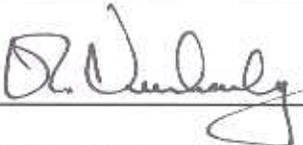
Robert J. Kerchusky Jr.
Manager of Operations

RJK

Attachments: Bypass Report from Angela DiBuo

xc: Rich Young, Director of Public Works
Chris Cope, Manager of Industrial Wastes
John G. Guignet Jr., Chief Operator
Sheena Ripple, PaDEP, Bethlehem Office

Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) Report to PADEP

1. Date, Name, Phone # of person completing this report	Date : August 05, 2012 Name : Bob Kerchusky Phone # : 610-437-7641 Signature : 
2. Your organization name and address ?	City of Allentown - Bureau of Water Resources 112 Union Street, Allentown PA 18102
3. Date found and <u>specific</u> location of SSO ?	August 05, 2012 Location: Outfall 003 at the headworks of City of Allentown Wastewater Treatment Plant
4. How was SSO discovered? By who ?	The power for entire plant was interrupted for about 21 minutes therefore the SCADA system was not registering the bypass flow through outfall 003, however the actual outfall metering device is equipped with battery backup and did record the bypassed flow. When power was restored, Bob Kerchusky observed the high wet well levels, immediate went to the outfall, and observed the discharge.
5. Start and end time of SSO (actual or estimate?)	Start: August 05, 2012 17:50 End: August 05, 2012 18:00
6. Date, time and name of person who notified PADEP of SSO ?	Date : August 05, 2012 Time : 18:30 Name : Bob Kerchusky
7. Description and actual or estimated volume of SSO	Description: Bypass from Outfall 003 Total metered flow: 14,413 gallons
8. Where, <u>precisely</u> , did SSO go ? (land, roadway, basement, swale, storm sewer, creek, etc.)	Plant By-pass from Outfall 003 discharges to the Little Lehigh Creek which is a tributary to the Lehigh River
9. What caused SSO ? How was it stopped ?	The severe thunderstorms that rolled through the Lehigh Valley Sunday evening disrupted the primary electric power supply to the WWTP. The operations staff was unsuccessful in restoring the plant with power on the backup supply for 21 minutes. During this timeframe the wet wells and interceptors were surcharged resulting in the discharge from outfall 003. The bypass structure served it's intended purpose by: protecting the WWTP from flooding and substantial damage; and protected the 84 year old collection system from over pressurization and damage. Once power was restored, the raw sewage pumps were restarted and the discharge immediately stopped.
10. Describe extent of contamination and how it was cleaned up	All free liquid and debris at the outfall pool was vacuumed up with one of the City's vac-trucks and lime was applied to the soil.
11. What actions will be taken to prevent a re-occurrence ? When ?	The City will immediately review it's power outage procedures with the operations staff to ensure all treatment plant operators have a thorough understanding of switching power supplies. However in this case both power grids may have been interrupted when the operators, following written SOPs, attempted to switchover. I have contacted PPL in an attempt to obtain more information regarding the availability of the facility's redundant electric power supply during the time of the outage.

Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) Report to PADEP

12. Other comments ?	<p>The plant operations staff has been equipped with state of the art tools for the prediction and notification of an impending storm. Internet service has been provided at the operator's console and when there is the threat of a storm typically the local radar is monitored. In addition, the City has purchased storm warning services from Accu-Weather which sends e-mails and faxes to the staff at WFP and WWTP. Written SOP have been developed for high flow events and power interruptions. The procedures require operators to make extensive preparations for impending storms.</p>
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CITY OF ALLENTOWN BYPASS REPORT

To: Robert Kerchusky, Manager of Operations
From: Angela DiBuo, Laboratories Manager
Date: Monday, August 13, 2012
Subject: Plant bypassing on August 5, 2012

In order to comply with NPDES Permit # PA0026000, section A.2.D, with respect to plant bypassing on August 5th, 2012, a description of the non-compliant discharge follows.

POINT SOURCE: Outfall 003

REASON: Severe thunderstorms disrupted the primary electric power supply to the WWTP. Operations staff was unsuccessful in restoring the plant with power on the back up supply for 21 minutes. During this timeframe, the wet wells and interceptors were surcharged resulting in the discharge from outfall 003.

DURATION: 17:50 08/05/12 START
18:00 08/05/12 STOP
0.167 HOURS

Total Duration	0.167 HOURS
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FLOW 8/5/12: 17:50 8/5/12 663 gallons
17:55 8/5/12 13,750 gallons
Total 8/5/12 14,413 gallons

Total Flow	14,413 gallons (0.014413 MG)
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CITY OF ALLENTOWN BYPASS REPORT PG.2

SAMPLE TIME: 18:45 8/5/12

BOD5:

TOTAL SUSPENDED SOLIDS:

AMMONIA NITROGEN:

pH:

Concentration

270 mg/L

255 mg/L

17.6 mg/L

6.82 S.U.

Loading

32.5 lbs.

30.7 lbs.

2.12 lbs.

Total Bypass Loading for 8/5/2012 Event (pounds)

	<u># BOD</u>	<u># TSS</u>	<u># NH3</u>
By-pass total	32.5	30.7	2.12