



**ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD OFFICE
TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION
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November 13, 2023

Mr. Craig Brymer
Athens Utilities Board
P. O. Box 689
Athens, Tennessee 37371-0689

Re: North Mouse WWTP, NPDES Permit Number, TN0067539
 Compliance Biomonitoring Inspection (CBI)
 McMinn County

Dear Mr. Brymer:

On August 28, 2023, through September 1, 2023, Ms. Angela Oberschmidt of the Division of Water Resources performed a Compliance Biomonitoring Inspection (CBI) at the Athens Utilities North Mouse Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The purpose of these inspections was to determine the facilities compliance with the terms and conditions of NPDES TN0067539. You, John Sullivan, and Russell Coleman provided information during Plant inspections.

Permit

NPDES Permit Number TN0067539 (North Mouse Plant) became effective on May 1, 2022, and will expire on April 30, 2027. The facility is correctly described, and the effluent limitations cover the known pollutants. The effluent limitations are protective of the classified uses for North Mouse Creek.

Records and Reports

Records are maintained for a minimum of three years. Monthly Operation Reports Discharge Monitoring Reports are submitted each month via NETDMR. A review of records for 2023 revealed no transcription errors.

Facility Site Review

All treatment units were in service at both facilities at time of inspection.

Effluent/Receiving Waters

Effluent was clear in appearance.

Mr. Craig Brymer, Superintendent

November 13, 2023

Page 2

The North Mouse facility met all effluent limitations and monitoring requirements during 2023 reporting period. Biomonitoring samples were collected by Ms. Oberschmidt and sent to Pace Laboratories for analysis. Pace Laboratories contacted the Chattanooga Field Office and stated that their testing did not meet laboratory QC. Therefore, A CBI will be scheduled next inspection year.

Self-monitoring Program

Mr. Sullivan oversees the required monitoring and submits Monthly Operation Reports and Discharge Monitoring Reports in a timely manner.

Laboratory

The required analyses are performed at the Oostanaula Plant, using 40 CFR Part 136 approved methodology. QA/QC program including EPA's new Method Update Rules are in place. The North Mouse plant runs only minor analyses.

Operation and Maintenance

Mr. Sullivan holds the necessary license to operate the North Mouse facility. Athens Utility Board provides in house training for operators seeking their wastewater license.

Sludge Handling

Liquid digested sludge from the North Mouse WWTP is transported to the Oostanaula Plant for further processing.

Sewer Overflows

The North Mouse collection system experienced a total of **2** overflows in 2023. The collection system was inspected during the same week and will be combined with the collection system inspection for Oostanaula WWTP.

The Division would like to thank Mr. Sullivan and all the other staff of Athens Utilities for their assistance during the inspection. If you have any questions concerning our inspection or this report, please contact Angela Oberschmidt at (423) 333-7251.

Respectfully,



Ms. Jennifer Innes
Program Manager
Chattanooga Field Office
Division of Water Resources

cc. Angela Oberschmidt(electronic)
cc. John Sullivan, Operator North Mouse Plant(electronic)