

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Water, Region 7

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Joe Martens
Commissioner

January 8, 2015

Mr. Tom Rhoads, P.E., Commissioner
Onondaga County
Department of Water Environment Protection
650 Hiawatha Blvd. West
Syracuse, New York 13204-1194

**Re: Oak Orchard WWTP: Conditional Approval to Re-Rate Organic Loading Capacity
SPDES NY 0030317**

Dear Commissioner Rhoads:

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (“Department”) has reviewed your August 29, 2014 letter requesting that the Oak Orchard Wastewater Treatment facility be granted an increase in the influent biochemical organic demand (BOD) from the current design limit of 14,200 lb/d to 17,100 lb/d. This is a loading increase of approximately twenty (20) percent.

In support of its justification for an increase, the Onondaga County Department of Water Environment Protection (“County”) submitted the results from a Comprehensive Performance Evaluation (CPE) and those from a process model to evaluate the performance of the treatment plant. Although the CPE indicated notable deficiencies in secondary treatment, the process model evaluation concluded that the additional loading of up to 20% more influent BOD to the facility would not curtail the treatment plant’s ability to safely meet all the effluent parameters of the permit.

Therefore, the Department grants conditional approval of the increase providing the following items are submitted within sixty (60) days from the date of this letter:

- 1) Internal sampling plan and schedule for process control;
- 2) Provide the current feed dosage rate for polymer and chlorine and verify if there is a need to increase storage capacity for either; and
- 3) Long-term plan to increase process capacity at the treatment facility, (including an implementation schedule); and
- 4) Projected growth plan which estimates the potential development of the service area (i.e. proportion each of commercial, industrial, and residential) as well as the impact of the current largest industrial discharger. The plan must delineate the rate (in pounds per year) at which influent BOD will approach the 17,100 lb/d threshold and when (i.e. at approximately what year in time).

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Valarie Ellis, P.E., or myself at the number above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy DiGiulio". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Timothy DiGiulio, P.E.
Regional Water Engineer

ec: Valarie D Ellis, P.E., NYSDEC — Region 7
Bob Wither, P.E., NYSDEC – Albany