
CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Matthew W. Garbark, Director
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Submitted by email

June 15, 2026

Maryland Department of the Environment
Water and Science Administration – Compliance Program
1800 Washington Boulevard, Suite 425
Baltimore, MD 21230

Re: 5-Day Written Notification of Permit Non-Compliance
Facility Name: Patapsco Wastewater Treatment Plant
NPDES / State Permit: MD0021601 / 15-DP-0580
Date of Incident: 6/9/2026

MDE-WSA Compliance:

This 5-Day letter is submitted in accordance with the non-compliance notification requirements of the permit noted above. Initial 24-hour verbal notification was provided to MDE on 6/10/2026 at 19:00 by Robert Lombardi, who spoke with Julio R. Wendy H. followed up with a call at about 19:30.

1. Description of the Non-Compliance and its Cause

Patapsco operators collected five daily BOD samples on 6/5 through 6/9 and an *Enterococci* sample also on 6/9. On 6/9 at 13:03 there was a plantwide power failure that affected Patapsco Lab, cutting off power to the BOD Room and to the incubator in the Microbiology Lab. The power stayed off until approximately 21:00. That disrupted the BOD permit analyses, since the EPA Method requires the samples to have an ambient temperature of 20°C for five consecutive days. Likewise, the *Enterococci* permit analysis was disrupted because the EPA Method requires the sample to incubate at a temperature of 41°C for 24-28 consecutive hours. Patapsco will complete the BOD analyses; but the results will be excluded from the weekly and monthly averages in the June 2026 DMR. Likewise, the *Enterococci* result of 77.6 MPN/100mls will be excluded from June's geometric mean.

2. Exact Period of Non-Compliance

For BOD, the period of non-compliance began on sample dates 6/5/2026 and extended to sample date 6/9/2026. The total duration of the event was five days. For *Enterococci*, only the sample collected on 6/9/2026 was affected. The June 9 power failure that caused the noncompliance began at 13:03 and lasted until about 21:00.

3. Steps Taken to Reduce and Eliminate Non-Compliance (Immediate Corrective Actions)

Upon discovery of the power failure, DPW management worked with the Baltimore City Fire Department and State OSHA staff to safely restore power while attending to persons injured by the event.

The lab results for the effluent samples are as follows:

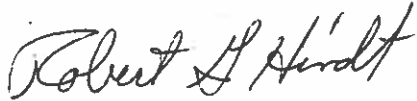
- A. 6/5/2026 results:
 - BOD 8 mg/l
- B. 6/6/2026 results:
 - BOD 9 mg/l
- C. 6/7/2026 results:
 - BOD (pending) mg/l
- D. 6/8/2026 results:
 - BOD (pending) mg/l
- E. 6/9/2026 results:
 - BOD (pending) mg/l
 - *Enterococci* – 77.6 MPN/100mls

4. Steps Planned to Prevent Recurrence (Long-Term Preventive Actions)

To prevent this type of event from occurring in the future, the facility has implemented, or will implement, the following measures:

- 1) The Lab will develop a Loss of Power SOP which will include an evaluation of potential solutions to power loss. These include: sending alternate samples to another lab, transporting current samples to another lab, backup power generators for specific equipment

Sincerely,



Robert G. Hindt, P.E.
Division Chief, Wastewater Facilities

Cc:

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