



Maryland Department of Environment
Water and Science Administration
Compliance Program
1800 Washington Blvd, Suite 420
Baltimore, MD 21230-1719
410- 537-3510, 1-800-633-6101

Inspector: Kari Hanson
AI ID: 8449

Site Name: Back River WWTP
Facility Address: 8201 Eastern Ave, Baltimore, MD 21224
County: Baltimore County

Start Date/Time: June 21, 2023 05:41 PM
End Date /Time: June 21, 2023 07:18 PM

Media Type(s): NPDES Municipal Major Surface Water

Contact(s): Shaded Tymes – Supervisor, Back River WWTP
Leonard Williams – Supervisor, Back River WWTP

NPDES Municipal Major Surface Water

Permit / Approval Numbers: 15DP0581

Complaint Number: 161150

NPDES Numbers: MD0021555

Inspection Reason: Complaint

Site Status: Active

Compliance Status: Noncompliance

Recommended Action: Additional Investigation Required

Evidence Collected: Visual Observation

Delivery Method: Email

Weather: 63°F, overcast and raining

Inspection Findings:

On June 21, 2023, MDE inspector Kari Hanson investigated a complaint regarding a strong odor at Back River WWTP.

Upon arrival, I met with Mr. Williams, and I explained the reason for my visit. He stated that he was not aware of any problems at the plant, but he had only been on shift for a half an hour or so. We proceeded to the area of the Primary Settling Tanks (PSTs). At PSTs 8-11, I noticed a sewage odor after vacating the car. Mr. Williams stated that they use peroxide to control the odor. He showed me the system that dispenses the peroxide. I observed the peroxide being dispensed into the system. Three of the four gates were open to allow flow into the PSTs.

We then proceeded to the sludge area. Gravity sludge tanks (GSTs) 1, 3 and 5 were in service. Mr. Williams stated that they were recently cleaned with bleach. No odor was noticed at this location.

We then went into the Gravity Belt Thickener (GBT) building. GBTs were running. No obvious odor was observed at this location. The egg-shaped digesters were functioning, and no obvious odor was observed at this location.

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At the headworks, all grit removal and fine screen equipment was operational. There was an obvious sewage odor at this location, but nothing out of the ordinary.

Mr. Williams then took me over to the activated sludge tanks and secondary clarifiers area where I met with Mr. Tymes. According to Mr. Tymes, all secondary clarifiers are operational with the exception of 6A, 6B, 9A, 9B, 11A, 12B, 13A, 14A, 16A and 16B. No strong odors were observed at the secondary clarifiers, the sand filter facility, the chlorination/dechlorination area or at the effluent outfall. The effluent was running clear.

I then left the site at 7:18 p.m.

During this investigation, MDE noticed a strong odor near PSTs 8-11 even though the peroxide odor control system was in operation. Since the Back River WWTP remains in violation of Environment Article Title 9 for failure to efficiently operate and maintain the treatment works at the facility, MDE requests the following information:

- 1. Within five business days of receiving this report, Back River WWTP should determine the source of the odor and take steps to resolve any resulting problems or issues. Provide MDE with a letter explaining the source of the problem and what steps were taken or are being taken to eliminate and/or prevent a reoccurrence of the odor at PSTs 8-11.**

Contact this inspector upon implementation of the requested corrective actions, reasonably necessary to bring the site into compliance. If the corrective actions cannot be completed within the prescribed time frames above, you should continue to advise this inspector of the status of the measures taken to complete the corrective actions. If you have any questions, need assistance or to request a re-inspection, please contact this inspector *at or in writing at 410-537-3519 or by e-mail at kari.hanson@maryland.gov*.

Inspector: *Kari Hanson* 6/22/2023
Kari Hanson /Date
kari.hanson@maryland.gov
410-537-3510

Received by: *Michael Hallmen* 6/28/2023
Signature/Date
Michael Hallmen
Print Name