



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: Shailaja Polasi
AI ID: 8449

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

Start Date/Time: December 29, 2021 11:00AM
End Date /Time: December 29, 2021 1:45PM

Media Type(s): NPDES Municipal Major Surface Water

Contact(s):
Betty Jacobs-Plant Manager
Rayford Mc Eachern- Permit Contact
Ronald Turner, Environmental Quality Resources
Dana Garris- Centrifuge Area Supervisor and Acting Supervisor Water

NPDES Municipal Major Surface Water

Permit / Approval Numbers: 15DP-0581
Inspection Reason: Follow-up (Non-Compliance)
Site Status: Active
Compliance Status: Noncompliance
Recommended Action: Continue Routine Inspection
Evidence Collected: Photos or Videos Taken, Samples Taken, Visual Observation
Delivery Method: Email
Weather: Sunny, Clear

Inspection Samples

Parameter	Result	Units	Method	Location	Date	Taken by
Oxygen, Dissolved	13.06	mg/L	Recorder	Final Effluent Chamber	2021-12-29 01:12 PM	David Burgers, operator
pH	6.6	standard units	Recorder	Final Effluent Chamber	2021-12-29 01:48 PM	David Burgers, operator
Chlorine, Total Residual	0.00	mg/L	Recorder	Final Effluent Chamber	2021-12-29 01:22 PM	David Burgers, operator

Inspection Findings:

On this day the writer called Back River Wastewater treatment plant in the morning and notified about plans for inspection. Upon arrival onsite I met with Betty Jacobs; Rayford Mc Eachern; Ronald Turner and Dana Garris representing Back River WWTP. After preliminary

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introductory meeting I began the inspection discussing the current status of facility improvements and later scheduled for site visit. The sky was sunny clear at the time of the inspection.

On this day Mr. Jacobs stated

1. Contract is approved to clean the excessive vegetation growth in the clarifiers and reactors and the project has not started yet. Ms. Jacobs stated the project will commence in 2 phases. Phase I will include vegetation clean up in the clarifiers and phase 2 includes clean up in reactors and any other miscellaneous structures. Ms. Jacobs stated the approved proposal includes only cleanup of phragmites and the cleaning of weirs will be handled by internal personnel.
2. Ms. Jacobs stated 2 centrifuges are operable, #4 centrifuge is out for maintenance and repairs on #2 centrifuge are complete and is back from vendor and is ready for installation. Ms. Garris stated 1 centrifuge is online and 2 backup potable centrifuges are in use currently. Ms. Garris stated Synagro operates the potable centrifuges.
3. Ms. Jacobs stated evaluation to the denitrification filters is completed and they are currently waiting on vendors. **Corrective Action:** Submit a letter to the Department explaining the necessary repairs to the Denitrification filters, when the project will start and tentative completion date of the project.

Later, a site walk was scheduled on this date. Ms. Garris accompanied me during the site walk of the facility.

1. On this day I observed #4 centrifuge was sent out for maintenance and #2 centrifuge is in place but not connected. Pictures are taken.
1. On this day I observed phragmites and vegetation growth in distribution boxes, junction vaults, clarifiers, reactors and other treatment tanks. **Corrective Action:** Submit a letter to the Department identifying and label all the treatment process tanks that have vegetation growth. The letter should also include which treatment tanks will the vegetation growth/phragmites removed. Permittee should take necessary steps to clear phragmites and excessive vegetation growth from all the treatment components. Submit a letter to the Department when the algae, scum deposits in the clarifiers will be cleaned. The letter should include the facilities periodic maintenance schedule to operate the clarifiers efficiently as per manufacturer recommendation.
2. On this day I observed the sand filter cells are not in good working condition. Ms. Garris stated sand filter upgrade is part of capital improvement project and there is no tentative date scheduled when the repairs or maintenance work will begin. **Corrective Action:** Submit a letter to the Department explaining total number of cells in sand filter process; which are in good working condition; which are offline; and cell with mechanical failure etc.
3. The composite sampler thermometer had serial number R90017. It was unclear when the thermometer was last calibrated or replaced. **Corrective Action:** Submit a copy of the composite sampler thermometer calibration certificate.
4. On this day I observed the Ph meter used for final effluent sampling took very long for stabilizing. The final effluent sample exceeded the 15 mins of holding time for analysis. Mr. Burgers stated they have replaced the probe to the meter recently but the sample take more time for stabilization. **Corrective Action:** The final effluent grab sample should be analyzed within 15mins of sample collection. Permittee should replace the Ph meter immediately or replace the probe.

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To bring this site into compliance with Environmental Article Title 9, the following corrective action should be made immediately upon receipt of this report.

1. All the above mentioned corrective actions mentioned above should be corrected immediately.
2. Submit a letter to the Department with the current status of the repairs to the bar screens. Permittee should maintain an SOP for operation and maintenance of the bar screen operations.

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, at least every 30 days, 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 [410-537-3521](tel:410-537-3521) or by e-mail at shailaja.polasi@maryland.gov.

Inspector: Shailaja Polasi
Shailaja, Polasi/Date
shailaja.polasi@maryland.gov
410-537-3510

Received by: _____
Signature/Date

Print Name