

10/10/2025



Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

2520 West Iles Avenue • P.O. Box 19276 • Springfield, Illinois • 62794-9276 • 217-782-3397

JB Pritzker, Governor

James Jennings, Acting Director

DATE: October 10, 2025

TO: Todd Bennett, Manager, BOW/DWPC/FOS

BOW ID: W1010150002

NPDES Permit No: IL0029467

FROM: Bruce Rodely, BOW/DWPC/FOS - Marion

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Rodely", written over a horizontal line.

SUBJECT: Lawrence County – Lawrenceville WWTP
Investigation follow-up – 10/09/25

Background Information

On September 16, 2025, the Marion Regional Office received an email from Water Quality Standards regarding the Ammonia reporting on DMRs. Later the same day Joe Stitely and Oscar Gordon from the Marion Regional Office investigated the facility regarding laboratory procedures. The laboratory was found to be insufficient and several processes at the plant were inoperable. The effluent appeared turbid and samples were acquired on September 16, 2025. On September 17, 2025 the Marion Regional Office received a complaint on overgrowth of vegetation on the Lawrenceville public water supply sand filter at the water plant. The complaint was accompanied by a photograph showing the growth. Therefore, a follow up inspection was performed on October 9, 2025 to document any improvements at the Lawrenceville wastewater and water plants.

October 9, 2025 Follow Up

On October 9, 2025, a follow up inspection was conducted by Bruce Rodely, DWPC/FOS-Marion, who met Aaron Tipsword, Superintendent at the wastewater treatment plant. The following information was acquired during the inspection:

- Personnel were replacing a sludge pump at the time of inspection.
- The influent pump was present at the facility and should be installed next week.

- The trash press in the headworks has been removed and is being repaired so debris can be removed from the influent flow. The electronic control is not working properly. Should be repaired next Thursday by Municipal Equipment.
- Influent from the headworks is being pumped to the headworks where a 1" bar screen is utilized to remove debris.
- The primary clarifier is still septic, and half of the inner weir is missing.
- Tipsword believes septic haulers are dumping into a manhole near the wastewater plant based on the strength of the sewer influent.
- Municipal Equipment will repair the primary clarifier next week.
- The south Schreiber unit was in operation. Parts were cannibalized from the north Schreiber unit to get the south unit to run.
- New wheels and hubs have been received for both Schreiber units and will be installed in the coming weeks.
- Two new euro drives for the Schreiber units have been ordered and should arrive in the coming weeks.
- Personnel from Parkson Industries in Alabama will visit next week to assess what is needed to get the north Schreiber unit operational.
- The south Schreiber is still septic, but conditions are improving.
- Most of the vegetation from the south Schreiber inner well has been removed.
- Sludge from the south Schreiber is being pumped at a low rate to the aeration basin to not upset the sludge process in the aeration basin.
- Sludge from the aeration basin is being pumped back to the south Schreiber to help with the septic conditions.
- Floating debris in the clarifier and south Schreiber will be removed by next week.
- Effluent appeared turbid and septic
- All wastewater samples are being shipped to Teklab on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays. Samples are prepped and analyzed Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.
- Wastewater plant lab has been cleaned up and samples will start to be analyzed to compare with Teklab.

- The sewer/water department has increased from three to five employees.
- Vegetation in the public water supply sand filter has been removed, and the media will be replaced. The sand filter was photographed (see attached photographs).
- Collapsed sewer on Springfield Street will be replaced next week.
- John Weiter, HMG Engineers, submitted NARP for wastewater plant and is the Principal Engineer for the wastewater plant.
- HLR Engineers is handling the collection system repairs.

Summary

The septic conditions of the plant are improving however the effluent still appears turbid and septic. Parts are on the way to and at the plant for repairs to the headworks, primary clarifier, Schreiber units, and influent pump. The laboratory is cleaned up and analyses will start taking place to replicate Teklab results. All samples are currently being analyzed by Teklab. Vegetation in the water plant sand filter has been removed. The collapsed sewer main on Springfield Street will be repaired next week. Further follow up is anticipated to verify improving effluent conditions and equipment repair.

BDR:lawrenceville dmr-pws recon 251009.docx

Attachments: 1 photo page

cc: BOW/DWPC/FOS/Marion
DWPC/CAS
BOW/DWPC/RU

COMPLAINT FOLLOW UP DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPH PHOTOCOPIES

Photo # Lawrenceville PWS-001
Date: October 9, 2025
Time: 1:09 PM
Taken By: Bruce Rodely DWPC/FOS
Facility: Lawrenceville PWS
Location: Sand Filter
Notes: Note the removed
vegetation from the PWS
sand filter.



Photo # NO PHOTO
Date:
Time:
Taken By: Bruce Rodely DWPC/FOS
Facility:
Location:
Notes: