



# Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

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JB Pritzker, Governor

James Jennings, Acting Director

DATE: October 17, 2025

TO: Joseph Stitely, Southern Region Manger, BOW/DWPC/FOS

BOW ID: W1010150002

NPDES Permit No: IL0029467

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

SUBJECT: Lawrence County – Lawrenceville WWTP  
Investigation follow-up – 10/16/25

## **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. On October 9, 2025, a follow up inspection was performed to document any improvements at the Lawrenceville wastewater and water plants. Therefore, on October 16, 2025, another follow up inspection was performed to further document any improvements at the Lawrenceville wastewater treatment plant.

## **October 9, 2025 Follow Up**

On October 16, 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:

- The influent pump was installed in the reception basin awaiting electrical hook up.
- Austin Brandt, Municipal Equipment, was at the facility earlier in the day prior to the inspection and evaluated the trash press in the headworks. According to Tipsword, the cutter

blades are bent and need to be replaced. The bent blades will not allow the press to work properly. The facility has blades in inventory for replacement. The press should be repaired by next week.

- 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. The facility will pump down the primary clarifier into the sludge aeration tank and by-pass the clarifier next week. During by-pass the inner weir will be replaced and the sludge line from the primary clarifier to the sludge aeration tank will be unclogged so sludge can be pumped to the aeration tank. The facility attempted to unclog the sludge line with the jet truck and was unable to do so.
- The south Schreiber unit was in operation. Parts were cannibalized from the north Schreiber unit to get the south unit to run.
- The south Schreiber is still septic and conditions are similar to the October 9, 2025 inspection.
- 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.
- 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.

### **Summary**

The septic conditions of the plant are similar to the October 9, 2025 inspection. The septic conditions of the primary clarifier will not improve if the sludge wasting line to the aeration tank is plugged. The effluent still appears turbid and septic. The headworks should be repaired and operational next week as the facility has the parts on hand for repairs. The influent pump has been installed and is awaiting electrical hook up. All samples are currently being analyzed by Teklab. Further follow up is anticipated to verify improving effluent conditions and equipment repair.

BDR:lawrenceville dmr-pws recon 251016.docx

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