

10/29/2025



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 28, 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 – 10/23/25

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, and October 16, 2025, follow up inspections were performed to document any improvements at the Lawrenceville wastewater and water plants. Therefore, on October 23, 2025, another follow up inspection was performed to further document any improvements at the Lawrenceville wastewater treatment plant.

October 23, 2025, Follow Up

On October 23, 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 plant is bypassing all flow to the excess flow lagoon to be returned to the plant later.
- Influent pump was installed in the reception basin awaiting electrical hook up.

- Austin Brandt, Municipal Equipment, was at the facility last week 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 but are awaiting other blades and parts or a new headworks system from Municipal Equipment. Depending on the cost of the parts, a new system may be warranted.
- Influent from the headworks is being pumped to the headworks where a 1" bar screen is utilized to remove debris.
- The primary clarifier has been pumped down to the floor and personnel were removing the remaining trash and will attempt to clear the plugged line using the jetter truck so sludge can be pumped to the aeration tank. The inner weir will be replaced while the clarifier is pumped down. The facility previously 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 has a light brown color with improved conditions and no longer appears septic.
- 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.
- There was no effluent as all flow is directed to the excess flow lagoon.
- All wastewater samples are being shipped to Teklab on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays. Samples are prepped and analyzed Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

Summary

The conditions of the plant are improved in comparison to the October 16, 2025, inspection. The plant is bypassing all flow to the excess flow lagoon and the primary clarifier has been pumped down and the sludge wasting line to the aeration tank will be cleared of blockage. The conditions of the south Schrieber have improved to a light brown color. There was no effluent. The headworks should be repaired and operational within the next couple weeks as the facility is either going to repair or replace the headworks. All samples are currently being analyzed by Teklab. Further follow up is anticipated to verify improving effluent conditions and equipment repair.

BDR:lawrenceville dmr recon 251023.docx

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