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

217-524-6672

November 26, 2025

CERTIFIED MAIL #7008 1140 0004 7343 6974
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

City of Lawrenceville
700 State Street
Lawrenceville, IL 62439

Re: Violation Notice: Lawrenceville WWTP
IL0029467 – W1010150002
Violation Notice No.: W-2025-50218

Dear Facility Owner:

This constitutes a Violation Notice pursuant to Section 31(a)(1) of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act ("Act"), 415 ILCS 5/31(a)(1), and is based upon a review of available information and an investigation by representatives of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency ("Illinois EPA").

The Illinois EPA hereby provides notice of alleged violations of environmental laws, regulations, or permits as set forth in Attachment A to this notice. Attachment A includes an explanation of the activities that the Illinois EPA believes may resolve the specified alleged violations. Due to the nature and seriousness of the alleged violations, please be advised that resolution of the violations may also require the involvement of a prosecutorial authority for purposes that may include, among others, the imposition of statutory penalties.

A written response, which may include a request for a meeting with representatives of the Illinois EPA, must be submitted via certified mail to the Illinois EPA within 45 days of receipt of this letter. If a meeting is requested, it shall be held within 60 days of receipt of this notice. The response must include information in rebuttal, explanation, or justification of each alleged violation and a statement indicating whether or not the facility wishes to enter into a Compliance Commitment Agreement ("CCA") pursuant to Section 31(a) of the Act. If the facility wishes to enter into a CCA, the written response must also include proposed terms for the CCA that includes dates for achieving each commitment and may include a statement that compliance has been achieved for some or all of the alleged violations. The proposed terms of the CCA should contain sufficient detail and

must include steps to be taken to achieve compliance and the necessary dates by which compliance will be achieved.

The Illinois EPA will review the proposed terms for a CCA provided by the facility and, within 30 days of receipt, will respond with either a proposed CCA or a notice that no CCA will be issued by the Illinois EPA. If the Illinois EPA sends a proposed CCA, the facility must respond in writing by, either agreeing to and signing the proposed CCA, or by notifying the Illinois EPA that the facility rejects the terms of the proposed CCA. When compliance is achieved, the owner of the facility must submit a completed statement of compliance form certifying that all Compliance Commitment Agreement measures/events have been successfully completed.

If a timely written response to this Violation Notice is not provided, it shall be considered a waiver of the opportunity to respond and meet, and the Illinois EPA may proceed with referral to a prosecutorial authority.

Written communications should be directed to:

Illinois EPA – Division of Water Pollution Control
Attn: **Tim Bejster**/ CAS#19
2520 W Iles Ave
P.O. BOX 19276
Springfield, IL 62794-9276

All communications must include reference to this Violation Notice number, **W-2025-50218**.

Questions regarding this Violation Notice should be directed to **Tim Bejster** at **217/524-6672** or **Timothy.Bejster@illinois.gov**.

Sincerely,

Caleb Ruyle, Manager
Compliance Assurance Section
Bureau of Water, Division of Water Pollution Control

Attachments

ATTACHMENT A

Lawrenceville WWTP – IL0029467
VN W-2025-50218

Questions regarding the violations identified in this attachment should be referred to **Tim Bejster** at **217/524-6672** or **Timothy.Bejster@illinois.gov**.

On September 16, 2025, representatives from the Illinois EPA conducted a reconnaissance inspection at the Lawrenceville Wastewater Treatment Plant in Lawrence County, Illinois. During the investigation, multiple operation and maintenance deficiencies were identified, including a nonfunctional bar screen and grit removal system at the head works, an inoperable Schreiber unit, nonfunctional air lines and motors, significant vegetation growth within the activated sludge tank, and trash and debris within the primary clarifier weirs. A pile of trash and debris was observed to be deposited on the ground adjacent to the pretreatment tank representing a water pollution hazard.

In addition, the effluent at Outfall 001 was gray in color and contained a strong sewage odor, causing an offensive discharge to the receiving stream, Embarras River. Samples taken at Outfall 001 identified the concentrations of $CBOD_5$, total suspended solids, and total ammonia nitrogen was not within the permitted effluent limits.

Further, the laboratory investigation identified numerous deficiencies, including monitoring and analytical instrumentation that had not been calibrated recently, outdated lab chemicals, poorly maintained equipment, and lab bench sheets that were unable to be provided upon request. Samples analyzed under the conditions observed by the Illinois EPA indicate sample results and measurements are not accurately representative of the monitored activity.

Review of Agency records indicates the NPDES Permit expired on September 30, 2025, and the Renewal Application was submitted untimely. Accordingly, discharges from October 1, 2025, to the present are unpermitted.

On October 9, 2025, a follow-up investigation observed the effluent at Outfall 001 turbid and septic, causing an offensive discharge. Subsequent investigations on October 31, and November 14, 2025, observed cloudy effluent at Outfall 001, also causing offensive discharges to the receiving stream.

Based on these findings, the facility is in apparent violation of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act, the Illinois Pollution Control Board Regulations, and NPDES Permit IL0029467. A review of information available to the Illinois EPA indicates the following violations of statutes, regulations, or permits. Included with each type of violation is an explanation of the activities that the Illinois EPA believes may resolve the violation.

Deposit of Contaminants

Violation Date	Violation Description
09/16/2025	Deposited contaminants on the ground in such a manner that caused or threatened to cause a water pollution hazard.
Rule/Reg.:	Section 12(d) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/12(d) (2024)

Effluent Standards - Offensive Discharge

Violation Date	Violation Description
09/16/2025 10/09/2025 10/31/2025 11/14/2025	Effluent must not contain settleable solids, floating debris, visible oil, grease, scum or sludge solids. Color, odor and turbidity must be reduced to below obvious levels.
Rule/Reg.:	Section 12(a) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/12(a) (2024), 35 Ill. Adm. Code 304.106

Effluent Violations

Violation Date	Violation Description
09/16/2025	Outfall 001 Effluent – BOD, carbonaceous [5 Day, 20 C], Effluent Limit
Rule/Reg.:	Section 12(a) and (f) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/12 (a) and (f) (2024), 35 Ill. Adm. Code 304.141(a), 309.102(a), and NPDES Permit IL0029467

Violation Date	Violation Description
09/16/2025	Outfall 001 Effluent – Solids, total suspended, Effluent Limit
Rule/Reg.:	Section 12(a) and (f) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/12 (a) and (f) (2024), 35 Ill. Adm. Code 304.141(a), 309.102(a), and NPDES Permit IL0029467

Violation Date	Violation Description
09/16/2025	Outfall 001 Effluent – Nitrogen, total ammonia [as N], Effluent Limit
Rule/Reg.:	Section 12(a) and (f) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/12 (a) and (f) (2024), 35 Ill. Adm. Code 304.141(a), 309.102(a), and NPDES Permit IL0029467

Discharge of Contaminants

Violation Date	Violation Description
09/16/2025 10/09/2025 10/31/2025 11/14/2025	No person shall cause, threaten, or allow the discharge of any contaminants into the environment in any State so as to cause or tend to cause water pollution in Illinois, either alone or in combination with matter from other sources, or so as to violate regulations or standards adopted by the Pollution Control Board under this Act.
Rule/Reg.:	Section 12(a) and (f) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/12(a) and (f) (2024)

Failure to Comply with NPDES Permit – Duty to Mitigate

Violation Date	Violation Description
09/16/2025	The permittee shall take all reasonable steps to minimize or prevent any discharge in violation of the permit which has a reasonable likelihood of adversely affecting human health or the environment; Standard Condition 4.
Rule/Reg.:	Section 12(f) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/12(f) (2024); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 309.102(a); NPDES Permit IL0029467

Failure to Comply with NPDES Permit – Operation & Maintenance

Violation Date	Violation Description
09/16/2025	The permittee shall at all times properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems of treatment and control to achieve compliance with conditions of the NPDES Permit; Standard Condition 5.
Rule/Reg.:	Section 12(f) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/12(f) (2024); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 309.102(a); NPDES Permit IL0029467

Failure to Comply with NPDES Permit – Monitoring

Violation Date	Violation Description
09/16/2025	Samples and measurements taken for the purpose of monitoring shall be representative of the monitored activity; Standard Condition 10(a).
Rule/Reg.:	Section 12(f) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/12(f) (2024); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 305.102(b), 309.102(a), and NPDES Permit IL0029467

Failure to Comply with NPDES Permit – Failure to Calibrate

Violation Date	Violation Description
09/16/2025	The permittee shall calibrate and perform maintenance procedures on all monitoring and analytical instrumentation at intervals to ensure accuracy of measurements of the NPDES Permit; Standard Condition 10(d).
Rule/Reg.:	Section 12(f) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/12(f) (2024); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 309.102(a), and NPDES Permit IL0029467

Failure to Comply with NPDES Permit – Failure to Retain Records

Violation Date	Violation Description
09/16/2025	The permittee shall retain records of all monitoring information for a period of at least 3 years from the date of the permit, measurement, report or application; Standard Condition 10(b).
Rule/Reg.:	Section 12(f) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/12(f) (2024); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 305.102(b), 309.102(a), and NPDES Permit IL0029467

Untimely Renewal of NPDES Permit

Violation Date	Violation Description
08/18/2025	Any permittee who wishes to continue to discharge after the expiration date of the NPDES Permit must timely apply for reissuance of the permit 180 prior to expiration. The NPDES Permit renewal application was due by April 3, 2025, but was not received until August 18, 2025.
Rule/Reg.:	Section 12(a) and (f) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/12(a) and (f) (2024), 35 Ill. Adm. Code 309.102(a), 309.104(a)

Unpermitted Discharge: Expired NPDES Permit

Violation Date	Violation Description
10/01/2025 To Present	Except as in compliance with the provisions of the Act, Board regulations, the CWA (Clean Water Act), and the provisions and conditions of the NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit issued to the discharger, the discharge of any contaminant or pollutant by any person into the waters of the State from a point source shall be unlawful.
Rule/Reg.:	Section 12(a) and (f) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/12(a) and (f) (2024), 35 Ill. Adm. Code 309.104(a) & 309.102(a)

ATTACHMENT B

Lawrenceville WWTP – IL0029467
VN W-2025-50218

In order to assist your facility in attaining compliance with the apparent violations listed in Attachment A, the following recommendations are offered:

1. Initiate efforts to closely monitor and enforce the City's sewer use ordinance for industrial users, both fixed facilities and septic haulers that could contribute to violations.

2. Repair or replace the automatic and or manual bar screen at the facility headworks. The existing automatic or manual bar screen was nonfunctional.

3. Repair or replace the grit removal at the headworks. The headworks was nonfunctional, and grit removal was not operational.

4. Initiate efforts to remove all trash and debris from the pre-treatment clarifier. During the inspection, significant trash and debris was observed, which may inhibit proper treatment process.

5. Initiate efforts to repair or replace nonfunctional parts of your pretreatment clarifier. Several parts of the pretreatment clarifier were held together with ropes and strings which could fail at any time.

6. Initiate efforts to place all unwanted piles of trash and debris from the treatment plant into a proper waste container for offsite disposal.

7. Immediately remove all vegetation and trees inside the activated sludge tank structure. This vegetation must be controlled and removed to allow proper treatment and the structural integrity of the sludge tank.

8. Initiate efforts to repair or replace missing and broken air lines and motors within the plant facility. Nonfunctional air lines and motors may result in the discharge of partially treated sewage.

9. Initiate efforts to repair or replace missing or broken parts of the Schreiber Units. Failure to restore the units to normal operating condition may result in the discharge of partially treated sewage.

10. Initiate efforts to clean and replace the onsite laboratory equipment, facility and chemicals. The laboratory was observed to have expired chemicals, poorly maintained equipment, and unclean facility work areas.

11. Initiate efforts to repair or replace valves at the facility splitter box. At the time of inspection, the valves were not fully operational.

12. There has been no significant renovation of the wastewater treatment facility. It appears that the facility may have reached the end of its design life. Consequently, we recommend that the owner initiate planning and design for the rehabilitation or replacement of the existing facility.

13. Initiate efforts to participate and follow in the DMR-QA Study as required by Section 308 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). At the time of inspection, DMR-QA sample results were not available or provided.

14. Initiate efforts to provide and maintain copies of all in-house and contract laboratory graded results. All results must be submitted and provided to the State DMR-QA Coordinator as required by the Clean Water Act.

15. Initiate efforts in following all NPDES Permit compliance monitoring tests and laboratory procedures. All test methods and procedures must follow 40 CFR Part 136 regulations.