Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
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JB Pritzker, Governor **James Jennings**, Acting Director

DATE: February 20, 2026

TO: Todd Bennett, Manager, 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 – 01/07/26

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, October 16, 2025, October 23, 2025, October 31, 2025, and November 14, 2025, follow up inspections were performed to document any improvements at the Lawrenceville wastewater and water plants. Therefore, on January 7, 2026, another follow up inspection was performed to further document any improvements at the Lawrenceville wastewater treatment plant.

January 7, 2026, Follow Up

On January 7, 2026, a follow up inspection was conducted by Bruce Rodely and Joe Stitely, DWPC/FOS-Marion, who met Aaron Tipsword, Superintendent at the wastewater treatment plant. The following information was acquired during the inspection:

- Laboratory scale and DO meter were calibrated on 12-22-25. Facility still needs reagents, analyzer, and train lab personnel.

- A new impeller has arrived for the new influent pump that failed in the reception basin and will be repaired under warranty.

- The facility is still awaiting a cost estimate from Municipal Equipment for the trash press in the headworks. Depending on the cost of the parts, a new system may be warranted. Cost estimates are expected the following week. Trash is currently being screened by a 1" bar screen at the influent pump station, a 1" bar screen at the headworks where the trash press is removed, and 1" bar screen after the primary clarifier.

- 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 cleaned and repaired. The sludge line has been cleared and the inner weir has been replaced. The effluent from the primary clarifier is slightly gray and cloudy.

- The south Schreiber unit was in operation. Moore Brothers has been sucking out the center well 1-2 times per week and placing contents into the sludge aeration tank.

- The north Schreiber unit is being emptied so the common sludge line for both Schreiber units can be accessed and cleared. A welder will repair the north Schreiber unit and new diffusers will be ordered to get it operational.

- The south Schreiber has a light brown color with improved conditions and no longer appears septic.

- Sludge from the center well of the south Schreiber will be pumped down by Moore Brothers to the aeration basin. The center well sludge pump and miscellaneous repairs will be made during the time the center well is pumped down. The sludge from the center of the Schreiber should not upset the sludge process in the aeration basin with the added sludge from the clarifier.

- Sludge from the aeration basin will be pumped into the south Schreiber outer well to re-seed sludge digestion micro organisms.

- Effluent appeared cloudy but was not 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 conditions of the plant are improved in comparison to the November 14, 2025, inspection. The laboratory equipment has been calibrated and new supplies need to be ordered. The new influent pump installed in the reception basin has failed and an impellor has arrived to be replaced under warranty. The primary clarifier has cleaned, repaired and cleared of blockage. The conditions of the south Schrieber have improved to a light brown color and a local contractor has been pumping sludge from the center well 1-2 times per week to the aeration basin. The north Schrieber is being pumped down to allow repairs to the sludge pumping system. The effluent appeared cloudy but not septic. The headworks should be repaired and operational within the next couple weeks as the facility should receive the cost estimates for repair and replacement. All samples are currently being analyzed by Teklab. Further follow up is anticipated to verify improving effluent conditions and equipment repair.

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cc: BOW/DWPC/FOS/Marion
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