Monthly Operations Report

Plant performance for the month of May was good. We averaged a daily flow of 3.144 MGD in our treatment plant, which is down slightly from 3.169 MGD average daily flow from April. That same May total is down a considerable amount from the same time last year where we saw an average flow of 5.793 MGD in 2020.

By the end of May, our sludge storage was at 713,000 gallons or 31% of our storage capacity. 1,005,264 gallons of biosolids were hauled for land application during the month of May.

Gravity Thickeners

In early May, plant staff responded to alarms from our process monitoring program to find that our South gravity thickener had stopped operating because it had been triggered by its torque monitoring equipment. To maintain the treatment process of our removed solids, operations were switched to the North gravity thickener. Staff then pumped down and removed all of the solids and rags to find damage to our plowing system caused by a 4" PVC pipe that was approximately 10" long. Plant staff was able to remove the object and return the equipment to near ideal operating condition. FHC, a contractor we often rely on for these types of issues, responded and provided necessary repairs in a timely manner to help bring back our equipment to process operating condition.

Cost to repair will not cause us to spend above previously approved budget.
Monthly Compliance

Compliance items for May included our monthly operating report (MOR) that was submitted to MiWaters, and no violations occurred.

Our draft NPDES permit is being prepared for public notice, set for June 16, 2021.

New Biosolids Requirements have been mandated to all facilities in the State who have an IPP program and land apply their solids. In summary, it directly relates to the monitoring of our biosolids for PFAs on an annual basis, provides direction for actions we must take depending on our sampling results, and the open communication that will be needed with farmers/landowners informing them of the PFAs concentration of the biosolids being applied to their fields. Sample results of PFAS in our biosolids was 14 ng/g, which places us under any compliance triggers beyond monitoring.

Other News

-2021-2022 roof replacement project for our control building received many bids and the contract was awarded to Ostrander roofing, with their low bid of $177,382.00

-Electrical improvements for our thickeners is ongoing. On track to complete before end of FY.

-FOIA request was submitted by Tammy Helmsinski of Barnes & Thornburg LLP, to our offices last month asking for a ton of information for one of our permitted industries over a date range of 2015 to current. More time than ideal was needed to satisfy the request but we were able to provide all necessary information.

-ACO termination request was submitted to EGLE Grand Rapids District Offices. All compliance items required of the Sewer Authority had been met.