

Region 6 - Enforcement & Compliance Assurance Division

INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Date(s):	03/27/2025	
Media Program:	Water	
Regulatory Program(s)	CWA	
Company Name:	Village of Angel Fire	
Facility Name:	Angel Fire WWTP	
Facility Physical Location:	67 Services Road	
(city, state, zip code)	Angel Fire, New Mexico	
Mailing address:	Post Office Box 610	
(city, state, zip code)	Angel Fire, New Mexico 87710	
County/Parish:	Taos	
Facility Phone Number	575-595-5190	
Facility Contact:	Arwin Vasquez	Wastewater/Compliance Superintendent
	avasquez@angelfirenm.gov	
FRS Number:	110012304443	
Identification/Permit Number:	NM0030503	
Media Identifier Number:	NA	
NAICS:	221320	
SIC:	4952	
Personnel participating in inspection:		
Arwin Vasquez	Village of Angel Fire	Wastewater/Compliance Superintendent
David Esparza	EPA-R6/ECDWM	Environmental Engineer
EPA Lead Inspector Signature/Date		
	David Esparza	Date
Supervisor Signature/Date		
	Roberto Bernier	Date

Section I – INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE OF THE INSPECTION

United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 inspector David Esparza, PE, arrived at the Village of Angel Fire (Angel Fire) Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) at approximately 12:00 PM on March 27, 2025, for an unannounced inspection. I spoke to Mr. Arwin Vasquez, Wastewater/Compliance Superintendent via telephone as he was unavailable and verbalized to him that this was an EPA inspection to determine the facility's compliance under the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program, in accordance with the CWA. The generation of this report is based on information supplied by Angel Fire representatives, observations made by the EPA inspector, and records and reports maintained by the permittee (Angel Fire), and the EPA. It should be noted the WWTP also maintains a discharge permit (DP-56) issued by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), Groundwater Quality Bureau (GWQB) for any discharges that are done to designated land application sites.

FACILITY DESCRIPTION

The WWTP is classified as a minor discharger with a design capacity of 0.5 MGD. The current average daily flow is approximately 0.1 MGD, however high seasonal flows can reach up to .45 MGD. The facility is located at 67 Services Road (also described as located approximately 1.5 miles south of the intersection of US Highway 64 (US-64) and New Mexico Highway 434 (NM-434), Angel Fire, Colfax County, New Mexico (depicted in **Aerial Image #1** below). The WWTP facility serves a population of approximately 1,100 residents. The WWTP is operated by staff within the Public Works Department and consists of 4 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions, during the hours of 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM daily. On-call staff is available on an as needed basis.

The WWTP commenced operation in 1999 and treats domestic wastewater using a sequence batch reactor (SBR) biological treatment. Wastewater is pumped by lift stations in the Village to the main lift station south of the SBR plant (Identified in Table 1 below). This lift station is equipped with four (4) submersible pumps that pump the influent through a 14-inch force main up to the facility where it can be diverted to either of the two (2) reactor basins, where the flow is decanted. Currently, only one (1) basin is being used for influent wastewater treatment, while the other is being used for treatment and storage of sludge.



Aerial Image #1: Overall view of the Village of Angel Fire’s Wastewater Treatment Plant. Aerial from Google Earth maps.

Table 1: Village of Angel Fire Lift Stations

	Lift Station	Address
1	Main	Intersection of Darrell Benjamin and Camino Grande
2	AF-1 Camino Grande	Intersection of Camino Grande and Hwy-434
3	AF-2 Fria 2	Intersection of Hwy-434 and Fria Road
4	Cabin Share	Intersection/entrance of Cabin Share Apartments and Via Del Rey
5	Valley Road	Cul-de-sac across from Community Center
6	PID-1 San Andres Drive	Intersection of Via Del Rey and San Andres Drive
7	PID-2 Woodlands Place	Woodlands Drive near intersection of Champions Terrace
8	PID-2 San Juan	San Juan Drive near intersection of San Andres Drive

The SUEZ Aqua-ray 40 HO ultraviolet (UV) disinfection system was installed in September 2024 and consists of two (2) banks of 5 rows of bulbs situated in a concrete channel. The disinfected effluent is stored in two lagoons prior to being discharged to the La Cieneguilla Creek or to a land application area.

Waste activated sludge (WAS) from the SBR basin is first stored in the unused reactor basin before it goes into the aerobic digester. The digester is situated on the south side of the reactor basin. Sludge pumped from the digester is dewatered by a belt press within the dewatering building. Dewatered sludge is transferred to a roll-off container and transported approximately 50-miles to the Northeastern New Mexico Regional Landfill in Wagon Mound, New Mexico.

Septage and domestic (typically greywater) wastewater is screened after a wet well before entering the headworks. According to WWTP records approximately 1,300 gallons of septage on average is received on a weekly basis.

The Village is in the process of updating their existing written policies and procedures to address any potential sanitary sewer overflow events (SSOs), and standard operating procedures (SOPs) pertaining facility operations and maintenance (O&M). Furthermore, an updated Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) program is also being completed with respect to existing and/or new FOG contributors.

Currently, there is no Industrial User (IU) contributing to the WWTP.

Section II – OBSERVATIONS

I observed the following and/or the following information was provided or stated on March 27, 2025.

- Overall maintenance and operation of the WWTP appeared to be satisfactory. All equipment looked to be running properly and effectively.
- The WWTP was in the process of pumping the supernatant from one of the process basins for cleaning.
- The WWTP has completed upgrading the exiting headworks building and installation of new isolation valves. Additional upgrades or improvements included, new mixers within the existing SBR basins, replacement of the existing UV disinfection system, construction of a new influent equalization (EQ) basin adjacent to the SBR basins and upgrading the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system.

Section III – AREAS OF CONCERN

No Areas of Concern were observed or identified

EPA Region 6 inspector David Esparza conducted a closing conference via telephone with Mr. Arwin Vasquez, Wastewater/Compliance Superintendent at approximately 1:30 PM on March 27, 2025, for the inspection.

Section IV – FOLLOW UP

No additional information was received by EPA, after exiting the Facility on March 27, 2025.