

Region 6 Compliance Assurance and Enforcement Division
INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Date(s):	07/17/2024		
Media:	Water		
Regulatory Program(s)	Clean Water Act		
Company Name:	City of Natchitoches		
Facility Name:	City of Natchitoches		
Facility Physical Location:	900 Laird Fletcher Rd		
(city, state, zip code)	Natchitoches, LA 71457		
Mailing address:	700 Second Street		
(city, state, zip code)	Natchitoches, LA 71457		
County/Parish:	Natchitoches Parish		
Facility Contact:	Ronnie Williams, Jr.	Mayor	
	318-352-2772		
FRS Number:			
Identification/Permit Number:	LA0095222		
Media Number:			
NAICS:			
SIC:	4952		
Personnel participating in inspection:			
Michael Williams	EPA/ 6EN-WMH	Inspector	281-983-2150
Raygan Beebe	City of Natchitoches	Sewer Plant Superintendent	318-352-4883
EPA Lead Inspector Signature/Date	  Digitally signed by MICHAEL WILLIAMS Date: 2024.09.18 11:30:13 -05'00'		
	Michael D. Williams		Date
Supervisor Signature/Date	ROBERTO BERNIER  Digitally signed by ROBERTO BERNIER Date: 2024.09.18 12:18:33 -05'00'		
	Roberto Bernier		Date

Section I - Introduction

PURPOSE OF THE INSPECTION

EPA Region 6 inspector, Michael Williams, arrived at the City of Natchitoches at 9:40 am on July 17, 2024, for an unannounced NPDES wastewater treatment plant inspection. During the opening conference, I met with Raygan Beebe, Sewer Plant Superintendent. Mr. Beebe was informed that this was an EPA lead compliance evaluation inspection to determine compliance with the facility's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and the Clean Water Act. The scope of the inspection was with permit LA0095222 and facility operations and maintenance under the Clean Water Act. The inspection was conducted under the authority of the NPDES permit program, in accordance with the Federal CWA.

The information presented in this report is based on the materials and information supplied by the City of Natchitoches representatives, observations made during the inspection and records, or reports maintained by the permittee.

FACILITY DESCRIPTION

The City of Natchitoches operates a 4.9 million gallons per day (mgd) activated sludge wastewater treatment plant designed to process and treat municipal wastewater. The facility's treatment process begins with a mechanical bar screen and grit chamber, which removes large debris and solids from the incoming wastewater. Following this initial screening, the wastewater flows into three boat aeration with intra channel clarifiers.

These clarifiers allow solids to settle out of the water. The clarified water then undergoes UV disinfection in three channels, with the goal of eliminating harmful pathogens before the treated water is discharged into the receiving stream.

Dewatering of the sludge produced occurs from the wasted solids to the two gravity thickeners and the belt press. Sludge is landfilled.

Section II- Observations

This inspection revealed the following observations:

- The City of Natchitoches has no staff gauge to verify or check accuracy of the flow instrumentation.
- On the day of the inspection, only two of the three UV channels were operational. The facility operated with only one bank of UV lights to disinfect from November 2023 till February 2024.
- The City of Natchitoches has operated with only one thickener for the last three years. On the day of the inspection the second thickener was down for nearly two weeks. The estimated date to receive parts for repair of only one thickener is October 2024, but no exact date for service to repair.
- The City of Natchitoches failed to sample Fecal Coliform January 2024. The facility reported operation shutdown but discharge to outfall 001 occurred during the monitoring period. A discharge was measured, and samples collected for BOD, TSS and pH for this sampling period.

Section III- Areas of Concerns

This inspection revealed the following areas of concerns:

- The City of Natchitoches reported an operational shutdown for January 2024, despite there being actual discharge during that month. According to the permit requirements, any discharge occurring during a monitoring period necessitates sampling for all specified parameters.
- The facility currently lacks the capacity to effectively handle and process solids from the clarifiers because of the thickeners are down. As a result, this inefficiency will lead to an accumulation of solids, causing an increase in the solid inventory. This buildup can result in operational issues, such as reduced processing efficiency and potential exceedance of permit limits.

Section IV – LIST OF APPENDICES

- Appendix A - Photos

Appendix A

Photograph Log



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Photograph Log

Photo No. 1

Location: City of Natchitoches		
City: Natchitoches	County/Parish: Natchitoches	State: LA



Thickener Down for over 3 years



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Photograph Log

Photo No. 2

Location: City of Natchitoches		
City: Natchitoches	County/Parish: Natchitoches	State: LA



Thickener Down nearly 2 weeks