

NPDES Inspection Report – Water Treatment Facility

National Database Information	
Inspection Date: May 16, 2023	Inspection Type: CEI – Water Treatment Facility
Entry/Exit Time: 9:00 am / 12:45 pm	NPDES ID Number: ND0031101
NAICS Code: 221310	Inspection ID: 202305 ND0031101
Lead inspector and affiliation: Stephanie Meyers / EPA Region 8	
Inspector and affiliation: Brit Rustad / EPA Region 8	

Facility Location Information (Name/Location/ Mailing Address)	
Site/Facility Name & Location: Spirit Lake Water Treatment Plant NW 1/4 NE 1/4 S29 T151N R63W St. Michael, ND 58381	Email Report to: Alfred Thompson Jr. (b) (6) Robert Thompson sltwr-dir@spiritlakenation.com

Contact Information	
	Name(s)/Title
Facility Contacts: <i>(indicate primary lead and present during inspection)</i>	Alfred Thompson Jr. / Facility Manager / Sioux Utilities / primary during the inspections
	Robert Thompson / Director of Water Resources / Sioux Utilities / present during opening and closing conferences
	Lynnia Bustos / Environmental Technician / Spirit Lake EPA / present during inspections
	Tyler Timmons / Tribal Utility Consultant / IHS / present during the inspections
Person/Company meeting definition of “Operator”	Spirit Lake Sioux Tribe
Authorized Official(s) (Per NOI?)	Alfred Thompson Jr. / Facility Manager / Sioux Utilities / primary during the inspections

Permit Information		
Is the permit on site and available? N/A	Lagoon Category: N/A	Monitoring Frequency: N/A
Effective Date: 1/10/2013	Expiration Date: 12/31/2017	Is the Facility under a compliance schedule? No
Is correct contact information indicated on ICIS? Yes		Indicate correct contact information: N/A
Receiving Water(s): Unnamed tributary to Devils Lake		
Regulatory Inspector’s source of information: Notice of Intent for the previous permit, ICIS, facility representatives and facility observations.		

Areas Evaluated During Inspection		
Permit	Self-Monitoring Program	Pretreatment
Records	Compliance Schedule	Pollution Prevention
Facility Site Review	Laboratory	Stormwater
Effluent/Receiving Waters	Operations and Maintenance	Combined Sewer Overflow
Flow Measurement	Sludge Handling/Disposal	Sanitary Sewer Overflow

Report Review and Signature		
Drafter Name	Address/Phone Number	Date
Meyers, Stephanie Digitally signed by Meyers, Stephanie Date: 2023.07.06 11:04:05 -06'00' Stephanie Meyers	U.S. EPA Region 8 1595 Wynkoop Street 8ENF-W-NW Denver, Colorado 80202	7/3/2023
	303-312-6885	
Reviewer Name	Address/Phone Number	Date
Brit Rustad	U.S. EPA Region 8 1595 Wynkoop Street 8ENF-W-NW Denver, Colorado 80202	7/5/2023
	303-312-6938	
Supervisor Signature/Name	Address/Phone Number	Date
COLLEEN RATHBONE Digitally signed by COLLEEN RATHBONE Date: 2023.07.06 07:55:10 -06'00'	U.S. EPA Region 8 1595 Wynkoop Street 8ENF-W-NW Denver, Colorado 80202	7/6/2023
	Colleen Rathbone 303-312-6133	

Inspection Narrative and Site Description

The inspection was conducted at the Spirit Lake Water Treatment Plant (WTP) located in St. Michael, North Dakota to evaluate the facility's discharge status. The EPA is responsible for implementing the NPDES program in Indian Country within the State of North Dakota. The inspection was announced approximately one month prior to the inspection to coordinate logistics for the inspection. On May 16, 2023, U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) inspectors Brit Rustad and Stephanie Meyers met with operator Alfred Thompson Jr. with Sioux Utilities, Robert Thompson with Water Resources, and Lynnia Bustos with the Spirit Lake EPA. The EPA inspectors presented their credentials and had an opening conference to explain the purpose of the inspection. The inspectors proceeded to ask questions to the facility representatives to help the inspectors evaluate the facility's discharge status. Inspectors also inspected the facility. Throughout the inspection, the inspectors noted their observations in a checklist. Photographs taken during the inspection are included in the attached photo log.

The Spirit Lake WTP is the potable water supply and distribution system for the residents and communities of the Spirit Lake Reservation. Raw water from the Warwick aquifer is pumped to the WTP from 5 wells. According to the previous permit application, an estimated 564,700 gallons per day will be pumped to the WTP, with an estimated 560,000 gallons per day going to the potable water distribution system after treatment. The water treatment process includes injection of potassium permanganate and ferric chloride, which oxidizes metals and coagulates arsenic respectively. The water then goes through a filter system prior to going to the potable water distribution system.

The filter system creates backwash water, which is partially recycled through the treatment process. The remaining backwash water that is not recycled flows to the backwash basins where sludge is captured and then flows to the two lagoon cells (photos 293 and 295). Facility representatives stated this facility has never had to discharge, therefore did not apply for a renewal permit when the previous permit expired in 2017. At the time of the inspection, water was not flowing from the outlet of the WTP (photo 294) into the cells, and both cells were dry.

At the end of the day on May 16, 2023, the inspectors returned to the main office and held a closing conference with Alfred Thompson Jr., Robert Thompson, Lynnia Bustos and Tyler Timmons where the discharge status of the WTP was discussed.

Findings, Corrective Actions and Recommendations

Recommendation #1: If the discharge status of the facility changes, apply for permit coverage.
Should the WTP need to discharge, inform EPA of the discharge, and apply for NPDES permit coverage.

Permit requirement:

Part 4.4 of the previous permit states, “If the permittee wishes to continue an activity regulated by this permit after the expiration date of this permit, the permittee must apply for and obtain a new permit...”

Corrective Action:

No further action is required.