

Region 6 Compliance Assurance and Enforcement Division
INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Date(s):	12/12/2023		
Media:	Water		
Regulatory Program(s)	Clean Water Act		
Company Name:	City of Eunice		
Facility Name:	City of Eunice		
Facility Physical Location:	930 College Rd		
(city, state, zip code)	Eunice, Louisiana, 70535		
Mailing address:	P.O. Box 1106		
(city, state, zip code)	Eunice, Louisiana, 70535		
County/Parish:	Acadia		
Facility Contact:	Scott Fontenot	Mayor	
	eunicelamayor@hotmail.com		
	337-457-7389		
FRS Number:			
Identification/Permit Number:	LA0041751		
Media Number:			
NAICS:			
SIC:	4952		
Personnel participating in inspection:			
Michael Williams	EPA/ 6EN-WMH	Inspector	281-983-2150
Brian Mallett	City of Eunice	Wastewater Superintendent	337-457-6530
EPA Lead Inspector Signature/Date	  Digitally signed by MICHAEL WILLIAMS Date: 2024.01.25 08:57:58 -06'00'		
	Michael D. Williams		Date
Supervisor Signature/Date	ROBERTO BERNIER  Digitally signed by ROBERTO BERNIER Date: 2024.01.25 10:11:15 -06'00'		
	Roberto Bernier		Date

Section I - Introduction

PURPOSE OF THE INSPECTION

EPA Region 6 inspector, Michael Williams, arrived at the City of Eunice Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) at 9:21 am on December 12, 2023, for an unannounced NPDES wastewater treatment inspection. During the opening conference, I met with Brian Mallett, Wastewater Superintendent. Mr. Mallett 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 LA0041751, 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 Eunice representatives, observations made during the inspection, and records and reports maintained by the permittee.

FACILITY DESCRIPTION

The City of Eunice WWTP operates as an extended aeration wastewater treatment facility with a designed capacity of 2.5 million gallons per day (mgd). The treatment process initiates at the headworks, incorporating a mechanical bar screen and grit chamber to eliminate large solids, rags, and debris from the influent. The flow is divided into two treatment trains. The first train consists of two aeration basins, two primary clarifiers, and secondary clarifiers. The second treatment train utilizes an oxidation ditch followed by a boat clarifier for solid settling. The combined flow undergoes disinfection with chlorine gas and subsequent dechlorination with sulfur dioxide. The facility was designed with a digester but has been taken out of service. The site is utilizing a holding tank that only receives waste from the first train. Solids from the holding tank is sent to the eight drying beds for dewatering. The treated water is discharged into an unnamed stream, leading to Bayou Mallet in basin subsegment 050103. The initial train was constructed in 1956, while the second train and headworks modification were completed in 1989. The City of Eunice intends to construct a new plant with a 10 mgd capacity at the existing site.

Section II- Observations

This inspection revealed the following observations:

- During the inspection, the City of Eunice faces challenges with solids management from the second train, specifically the boat clarifier. The line designed for waste disposal from the boat clarifier basin is positioned too low, as indicated by Wastewater Superintendent Brian Mallett. This issue hinders the city's ability to effectively handle solid inventory within this treatment process. The second train has remained non-operational for years, as documented in previous inspection reports, either not functioning at all or not operating properly.
- The City of Eunice WWTP has a capacity of 2.5 million gallons per day (mgd), and each process unit was designed, constructed, and permitted according to the application submitted to the

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) for discharge. During the inspection, it was noted that the digester, essential for treating sludge before dewatering in the drying beds and disposal to a landfill, was taken out of service and not operational.

Section III- Areas of Concern

This inspection revealed the following areas of concern:

The City of Eunice treatment plant has faced persistent challenges in achieving compliance with the effluent limits stipulated in its discharge permit. The lack of maintenance and inadequacies in the system design for treating the influent are the primary causes of non-compliance.

A critical aspect that contributes to the non-compliance is the maintenance of the current design. The plant is not maintained or operated as designed. The facility has operated only half the plant for years. The average daily flow of 1 mgd exceeds the capability of the first train as stated by Mr. Mallett. Without corrective action consequently, the facility will continue to struggle to meet the permit requirements.

The current operating and maintenance procedures has proven inadequate in meeting the required permit limits, leading to persistent non-compliance. It is crucial for the City of Eunice to address these shortcomings and implement appropriate design modifications to ensure consistent compliance and improve the overall performance of the treatment plant.

Section IV – LIST OF APPENDICES

- Appendix A – Photos

Appendix 1

Photograph Log



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Photograph Log

Photo No. 1

Location: City of Eunice WWTP		
City: Eunice	County/Parish: Arcadia	State: Louisiana



City of Eunice mechanical bar screen and grit chamber



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Photograph Log

Photo No. 2

Location: City of Eunice WWTP		
City: Eunice	County/Parish: Arcadia	State: Louisiana



Aerial View of Train #1 with Dual aeration and Clarification



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Photograph Log

Photo No. 3

Location: City of Eunice WWTP		
City: Eunice	County/Parish: Arcadia	State: Louisiana



Primary Clarifiers for Train #1



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Photograph Log

Photo No. 4

Location: City of Eunice WWTP		
City: Eunice	County/Parish: Arcadia	State: Louisiana



Secondary Clarifiers for Train #1 prior to disinfection



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Photograph Log

Photo No. 5

Location: City of Eunice WWTP		
City: Eunice	County/Parish: Arcadia	State: Louisiana



Boat Clarifier Train #2



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Photograph Log

Photo No. 6

Location: City of Eunice WWTP		
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Chlorine Contact Chamber



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Photograph Log

Photo No. 7

Location: City of Eunice WWTP		
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Drying Bed



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Photograph Log

Photo No. 8

Location: City of Eunice WWTP		
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Outfall 001 Sample Point



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Photograph Log

Photo No. 9

Location: City of Eunice WWTP		
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Outfall 001