

Region 6 - Enforcement & Compliance Assurance Division
INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Date(s):	01/18/2022	
Media Program:	Water	
Regulatory Program(s)	CWA	
Company Name:	Village of Angel Fire	
Facility Name:	Angel Fire WWTF	
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	575-377-2305	
Facility Contact:	Amos Torres	Public Utilities Manager
	atorres@angelfireNM.gov	
FRS Number:	110012304443	
Identification/Permit Number:	NM0030503	
Media Identifier Number:	NA	
NAICS:	221320	
SIC:	4952	
Personnel participating in inspection:		
Amos Torres	Village of Angel Fire	Public Utilities Manager
Arwin Vasquez	Village of Angel Fire	Public Utility Foreman
Chris Chavez	Village of Angel Fire	Wastewater Operator
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 Facility (WWTF) at approximately 2:00 PM on January 18, 2022, for an unannounced inspection. I presented my credentials to Mr. Amos Torres, Public Utilities Manager and informed 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, NMED and records and reports maintained by the permittee (Angel Fire), and the EPA. Before leaving the facility on January 18, 2022, an exit briefing was held with Mr. Torres, to explain areas of concern noted at the time of the inspection. It should be noted the WWTF 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 WWTF 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 WWTF facility serves a population of approximately 1,100 residents. The WWTF 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 WWTF 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 Facility. 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 UV system an Aqua Ray 40 HO vertical lamp system (manufactured by Degremont Technologies) consists of five (5) banks of lights situated over a concrete channel. According to a December 2020, HDR Preliminary Engineering Report (PER), “the existing UV disinfection needs replacement due to age”. The disinfected effluent is stored in a pond prior to being discharged to the La Cieneguilla

Creek. The WWTF's discharge permit (DP-56) allows the discharge of treated effluent through land application.

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 WWTF 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 WWTF.

Section II – OBSERVATIONS

I observed the following and/or the following information was provided or stated on January 18, 2022.

- Overall maintenance and operation of the WWTF appeared to be satisfactory. All equipment looked to be running properly and effectively.
- The WWTF is scheduled to upgrade the exiting headworks building and install new isolation valves. Additional upgrades or improvement include, new mixers are planned for installation within the existing SBR basins, replacement of the existing UV disinfection system and construction of a new influent equalization (EQ) basin adjacent to the SBR basins.
- The WWTF does have a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system in place, but the 2020 HDR PER noted communication problems, and the electrical components don't meet current National Electric Code requirements. Additionally, in a Technical Memo (TM) completed by Dennis Engineering (DE) in 2016, the SCADA system has problems communicating between the WWTF and the Main lift station located at the headworks.
- It was also stated the electrical controls for the SBR's, and headworks are outdated, and WWTF staff has difficulty with manufacturer service and obtaining replacement parts.

- At the time of the inspection, I was informed that a Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) had occurred in February 2020 and was duly reported.
- It was suggested that due to the recent inclement weather (18-inches of snow) the unpaved dirt access roadway to the outfall would be unpassable until it refreeze

Section III – AREAS OF CONCERN

A review of the Integrated Compliance Information System (ICIS) database for the period from August 23, 2018, to January 18, 2022, indicates the following:

1. NPDES permit excursion- Suspended Solids (percent removal)- April 2019, May 2019, and March 2020
2. Non-receipt of Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMR)- April 2019
3. NPDES permit excursion - Escherichia coli (E coli)- June 2021

Additional Area of Concern

4. One (1) sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) event occurred from a crack approximately 6-feet in length on the force main in the vicinity of the Main LS resulting in an approximate 7K-gallon discharge.

EPA Region 6 inspector David Esparza conducted a closing conference at Village of Angel Fire's WWTF Main Lift Station approximately at 3:30 PM on January 18, 2022, for the inspection. Additionally, AOCs 1-4 were determined after the conclusion of the inspection and were not included in the closing conference.

Section IV – FOLLOW UP

The following information was received by EPA on January 28, 2022, after exiting the Facility on January 18, 2022:

- A copy of the current protocol related to Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) policy/ordinance and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).
- A summary of the quantity and locations of any lift station(s).
- A summary of your sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) protocol or Best Management Practices (BMP), inclusive of a spreadsheet type document delineating any/all SSO events specifically with respect to the previous 2-year period.

- A copy of the current/updated Site Map/Plan, delineating proposed rehabilitated/upgraded building footprints and treatment schemes.
- A summary of the approximate quantity of septage volumes daily

Section V – LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Photo Log – 6 photos taken 1/18/2022

Appendix 2 – A Review of the Integrated Compliance Information System (ICIS) Database for the period from August 23, 2018, to January 18, 2022

Appendix 1

Photograph Log



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Photograph Log

Photo No. 1

Location: Angel Fire Wastewater Treatment Plant		
City: Angel Fire	County/Parish: Colfax	State: New Mexico



View of the Ultraviolet (UV) disinfection system situated over the concrete channels. (DSCN2087)
Photographed by D. Esparza



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Photograph Log

Photo No. 2

Location: Angel Fire Wastewater Treatment Plant		
City: Angel Fire	County/Parish: Colfax	State: New Mexico



Another view of the UV disinfection system. (DSCN2089). Photographed by D. Esparza



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Photograph Log

Photo No. 3

Location: Angel Fire Wastewater Treatment Plant		
City: Angel Fire	County/Parish: Colfax	State: New Mexico



View of the location of the proposed new influent equalization (EQ) basin adjacent to the SBR basins. This location is approximately on the northside of the SBR basins. (DSCN2090). Photographed by D. Esparza



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Photograph Log

Photo No. 4

Location: Angel Fire Wastewater Treatment Plant		
City: Angel Fire	County/Parish: Colfax	State: New Mexico



View of the approximate northside SBE basin. (DSCN 2091). Photographed by D. Esparza



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Photograph Log

Photo No. 5

Location: Angel Fire Wastewater Treatment Plant		
City: Angel Fire	County/Parish: Colfax	State: New Mexico



View of the approximate southside SBR currently used for treatment and storage of sludge. (DSCN 2093). Photographed by D. Esparza



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Photograph Log

Photo No. 6

Location: Angel Fire Wastewater Treatment Plant		
City: Angel Fire	County/Parish: Colfax	State: New Mexico



View of the headwork at the Main Lift Station. Note: The WWTF is scheduled to upgrade the exiting headworks building and install new isolation valves. (DSCN 2096). Photographed by D. Esparza

Appendix 2

A Review of the Integrated Compliance Information
System (ICIS) Database
for
the period from August 23, 2018, to January 18, 2022

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Related NPDES Violations

ADD SINGLE EVENT VIOLATION

List of Violations Related to the Permit

Violation Type	Violation Information	Violation Code	Violation Date	RNC Detection Code-Date	Record Numbers 1 to 40		Action
					RNC Resolution Code-Date		
Schedule Violation	4 P CS010 Status/Progress Report	C10	10/28/2018				
Schedule Violation	4 P CS010 Status/Progress Report	C20	10/28/2018				
Schedule Violation	4 P CS010 Status/Progress Report	C30	10/28/2018	N-11/28/2018	2-01/09/2020		
Schedule Violation	4 P CS010 Status/Progress Report	C40	10/28/2018	N-11/28/2018	9-11/28/2018		
Schedule Violation	4 P CS010 Status/Progress Report	C10	01/28/2019				
Schedule Violation	4 P CS010 Status/Progress Report	C20	01/28/2019				
Schedule Violation	4 P CS010 Status/Progress Report	C30	01/28/2019	N-02/28/2019	2-01/09/2020		
Schedule Violation	4 P CS010 Status/Progress Report	C40	01/28/2019	N-02/28/2019	8-02/28/2019		
Schedule Violation	4 P CS010 Status/Progress Report	C10	04/28/2019				
Schedule Violation	4 P CS010 Status/Progress Report	C20	04/28/2019				
Schedule Violation	4 P CS010 Status/Progress Report	C30	04/28/2019	N-05/29/2019	2-01/09/2020		
Schedule Violation	4 P CS010 Status/Progress Report	C40	04/28/2019	N-05/29/2019	2-01/09/2020		
Schedule Violation	3 P ELMWP Effluent Limitations Work Plan	C10	06/03/2019				
Schedule Violation	3 P ELMWP Effluent Limitations Work Plan	C20	06/03/2019				

Violation Type	Violation Information	Violation Code	Violation Date	RNC Detection Code-Date	RNC Resolution Code-Date	Action
Schedule Violation	3 P ELMWP Effluent Limitations Work Plan	C30	06/03/2019	N-07/04/2019	2-01/09/2020	
Schedule Violation	3 P ELMWP Effluent Limitations Work Plan	C40	06/03/2019	N-07/04/2019	2-01/09/2020	
Schedule Violation	4 P CS010 Status/Progress Report	C10	07/28/2019			
Schedule Violation	4 P CS010 Status/Progress Report	C20	07/28/2019			
Schedule Violation	4 P CS010 Status/Progress Report	C30	07/28/2019	N-08/28/2019	2-01/09/2020	
Schedule Violation	4 P CS010 Status/Progress Report	C40	07/28/2019	N-08/28/2019	2-01/09/2020	
Schedule Violation	4 P CS010 Status/Progress Report	C10	10/28/2019			
Schedule Violation	4 P CS010 Status/Progress Report	C20	10/28/2019			
Schedule Violation	4 P CS010 Status/Progress Report	C30	10/28/2019	N-11/28/2019	2-01/09/2020	
Schedule Violation	4 P CS010 Status/Progress Report	C40	10/28/2019	N-11/28/2019	8-11/28/2019	
Schedule Violation	4 P CS010 Status/Progress Report	C10	04/28/2020			
Schedule Violation	4 P CS010 Status/Progress Report	C10	07/28/2020			
Schedule Violation	4 P CS010 Status/Progress Report	C10	10/28/2020			
Schedule Violation	1 P FELAC Achieve Final Effluent Limitations	C10	11/02/2020			
Schedule Violation	1 P FELAC Achieve Final Effluent Limitations	C20	11/02/2020			
Schedule Violation	1 P FELAC Achieve Final Effluent Limitations	C30	11/02/2020	S-02/01/2021	2-02/04/2021	
Schedule Violation	1 P FELAC Achieve Final Effluent Limitations	C40	11/02/2020	S-02/01/2021	2-02/04/2021	
Schedule Violation	4 P CS010 Status/Progress Report	C10	10/28/2021			
Schedule Violation	4 P CS010 Status/Progress Report	C20	10/28/2021			
Schedule Violation	4 P CS010 Status/Progress Report	C30	10/28/2021	N-11/28/2021	2-01/27/2022	
Schedule Violation	4 P CS010 Status/Progress Report	C40	10/28/2021	N-11/28/2021	2-01/27/2022	

Violation Type	Violation Information	Violation Code	Violation Date	RNC Detection Code-Date	RNC Resolution Code-Date	Action
DMR Non-Receipt Violation	001 A 81011 Solids, suspended percent removal Effluent Gross Season ID:0 C1	D90	04/30/2019			
Effluent Violation	001 A 81011 Solids, suspended percent removal Effluent Gross Season ID:0 C1	E90	05/31/2019			
Effluent Violation	001 A 81011 Solids, suspended percent removal Effluent Gross Season ID:0 C1	E90	03/31/2020			
Effluent Violation	001 A 51040 E. coli Effluent Gross Season ID:0 C2	E90	06/30/2021			
Effluent Violation	001 A 51040 E. coli Effluent Gross Season ID:0 C3	E90	06/30/2021			

Record Numbers 1 to 40

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