EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency

Region 6 Compliance Assurance and Enforcement Division

INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Date(s):	3/25/2025		
Media:	Water		
Regulatory Program(s)	Clean Water Act		
Company Name:	City of Opelousas		
Facility Names:	City of Opelousas -Candy Street WWTP		
Facility Physical Locations:	2284 Candy Street,		
(city, state, zip code)	Opelousas, LA 70571		
Mailing address:	P.O.BOX 1879		
(city, state, zip code)	Opelousas, LA 70571		
County/Parish:	St. Landry		
Facility Contact:	Julius Alsandor	Mayor	
	mayoralsandor@cityofopelousas.com		
	337-948-2520		
FRS Number:			
Identification/Permit Number:	LA0036404		
Media Number:			
NAICS:			
SIC:	4952		
Personnel participating in inspection:			
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EPA Lead Inspector Signature/Date	MICHAEL WILLIAMS MICHAEL WILLIAMS 2025.06.05 07:02:57 -05'00'		
	Michael D. Williams		Date
Supervisor Signature/Date	ROBERTO BERNIER Digitally signed by ROBERTO BERNIER Date: 2025.06.05 08:27:53 -05'00'		
	Roberto Bernier		Date

Section I - Introduction

PURPOSE OF THE INSPECTION

EPA Region 6 inspector, Michael Williams, arrived at the City of Opelousas Candy Street Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) at 10:00 am on March 25, 2025, for unannounced National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) inspections. During the opening conference, I met with Calvin Tyler, Plant Supervisor. Mr. Tyler was informed that this was an EPA lead compliance evaluation inspection to determine compliance with the facility's NPDES permit LA0036404 and facility operations and maintenance under the Clean Water Act (CWA). The inspections were 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 Opelousas representatives, observations made during the inspection, and records or reports maintained by the permittee, permittee contract laboratory, the State of Louisiana and EPA.

FACILITY DESCRIPTIONS

The Candy Street Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) utilizes an activated sludge process to treat municipal wastewater, with a designed treatment capacity of 3.3 million gallons per day (MGD). The treatment process begins with preliminary screening, where incoming wastewater passes through both mechanical and manual bar screens. These screens remove large debris and solid materials that could damage downstream equipment or impede the treatment process.

Following screening, the flow enters a single grit chamber. Here, heavier inorganic particles such as sand, gravel, and silt settle out and are removed from the system. This step is critical in protecting pumps and other mechanical components from abrasive wear.

The pre-treated wastewater then flows into three aeration basins. These basins play a key role in biological treatment by introducing oxygen into the water. This oxygenation supports the growth of aerobic microorganisms that consume and break down organic pollutants present in the wastewater. The aeration process is central to the activated sludge system, providing the conditions necessary for effective biological degradation.

After the aeration stage, the mixed liquor flows into four secondary clarifiers. In these clarifiers, the biological solids settle out under gravity. The settled solids, or sludge, are separated from the clarified water. A portion of the sludge, known as return activated sludge (RAS), is recycled back to the headworks to maintain the microbial population in the aeration basins. The remainder, referred to as waste activated sludge (WAS), is directed to two onsite aerobic digesters for further stabilization.

In the aerobic digesters, the sludge undergoes additional biological treatment under aerobic conditions, which helps reduce odor and organic content. Once stabilized, the sludge is dewatered using a belt press. The resulting solids are then transported to the St. Landry Parish landfill for final disposal.

Meanwhile, the clarified effluent from the secondary clarifiers proceeds to tertiary filtration. These filters remove finer suspended solids that were not captured during earlier treatment stages. The filtered water

is then routed through a cascade system, which provides additional aeration and oxidation, further improving effluent quality and reducing residual organic content.

The final step in the treatment process is disinfection. The water enters a chlorine contact chamber where it is exposed to chlorine for a specified period, effectively inactivating any remaining pathogens. After disinfection, the treated effluent is discharge into the Bayou Yarbor thence into Bayou Callahan thence into Vermilion River.

Section II- Observations

This inspection revealed the following observations:

Candy Street Treatment Plant LA0036404 Specific Observations:

- During the inspection of the wastewater treatment plant, several critical operational deficiencies were observed. Most notably, the entire headworks system was offline at the time of the visit. Both the mechanical bar screen and the grit chamber were non-operational, resulting in the failure to remove large debris and heavier inorganic particles from the incoming wastewater. Consequently, the influent received only minimal preliminary treatment before being directed to the aeration basins, potentially impacting the efficiency of downstream biological processes and increasing the risk of equipment damage.

- The tertiary filtration system appeared to be clogged during the inspection, indicating a lack of routine maintenance and cleaning. Furthermore, there was no evidence of a scheduled maintenance program or documentation of any maintenance activities, as required by the facility's standard operating procedures. This oversight may compromise effluent quality and suggests noncompliance with established operational protocols.

- During the inspection, the solids inventory throughout the treatment system appeared to be elevated beyond operational levels and potentially contributing to exceedance of permit limits. This condition was attributed to insufficient wasting of solids from the system. Routine and effective solids wasting is essential to maintaining treatment efficiency and regulatory compliance. Failure to remove excess solids can impair biological processes and compromise the overall performance of the wastewater treatment system.

Section III- Areas of Concern

This inspection revealed the following areas of concern:

- The City of Opelousas is not in compliance with the requirements outlined in Section B, General Conditions, of LPDES Permit LA0036404. This section mandates that the permittee must properly operate and maintain all treatment facilities and systems at all times to ensure compliance with permit conditions.

However, during the inspection, multiple deficiencies were noted that indicate a failure to meet this obligation. At the Candy Street Treatment Facility, key components—including the grit chamber, tertiary filtration system, and solids disposal process—were found to be inadequately maintained or non-functional. Specifically, the city has not been disposing of dewatered sludge at the landfill due to a lack of available drivers. No contingency plan, such as contracting third-party drivers or companies, has been implemented to address this gap. As a result, solids are not being wasted from the system, leading to elevated solids inventory and contributing to permit limit exceedances.

- During the inspection, a leaking pipe was observed at the facility discharging non-potable water. The leak was uncontained and represents a potential bypass of the treatment system. If this discharge commingles with stormwater, it may constitute an unauthorized discharge under the facility's permit conditions. This issue requires corrective action to prevent potential environmental impacts and regulatory noncompliance. (See Appendix A)

- During the inspection, it was observed that the City of Opelousas was storing sludge in a 2–4 cubic yard container positioned outside of the designated containment area. This placement poses a risk of runoff and potential bypass of the treatment system, particularly during wet weather events. Proper containment is essential to prevent unauthorized discharges and ensure compliance with permit requirements. (See Appendix A)

Section IV – LIST OF APPENDICES

- Appendix A – Photos
- Appendix B – Effluent Violation Summary

Appendix A

Photograph Log

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Photograph Log

Photo No. 1

Location: City of Opelousas - Candy Street WWTP		
City: Opelousas	County/Parish: St. Landry Parish	State: LA

Headworks

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Photograph Log

Photo No. 2

Location: City of Opelousas - Candy Street WWTP		
City: Opelousas	County/Parish: St. Landry Parish	State: LA

Headworks (Manual and Mechanical Bar Screens)

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Photograph Log

Photo No. 3

Location: City of Opelousas - Candy Street WWTP		
City: Opelousas	County/Parish: St. Landry Parish	State: LA

Headworks Grit Chamber

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Photograph Log

Photo No. 4

Location: City of Opelousas - Candy Street WWTP		
City: Opelousas	County/Parish: St. Landry Parish	State: LA

Container outside containment area

Container with sludge outside of containment area

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Photograph Log

Photo No. 5

Location: City of Opelousas - Candy Street WWTP		
City: Opelousas	County/Parish: St. Landry Parish	State: LA

Aeration Basins

Filamentous Bacteria Present because of high solid inventory and older sludge present

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Photograph Log

Photo No. 6

Location: City of Opelousas - Candy Street WWTP		
City: Opelousas	County/Parish: St. Landry Parish	State: LA

Clarifiers

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Photograph Log

Photo No. 7

Location: City of Opelousas - Candy Street WWTP		
City: Opelousas	County/Parish: St. Landry Parish	State: LA

Non-Portable Water Pipe leaking

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Photograph Log

Photo No. 8

Location: City of Opelousas - Candy Street WWTP		
City: Opelousas	County/Parish: St. Landry Parish	State: LA

Tertiary filtration System

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Photograph Log

Photo No. 9

Location: City of Opelousas - Candy Street WWTP		
City: Opelousas	County/Parish: St. Landry Parish	State: LA

Suspend Solids Present in the Chlorine Chamber

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Photograph Log

Photo No. 10

Location: City of Opelousas - Candy Street WWTP		
City: Opelousas	County/Parish: St. Landry Parish	State: LA

Chlorine Chamber

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Photograph Log

Photo No. 11

Location: City of Opelousas - Candy Street WWTP		
City: Opelousas	County/Parish: St. Landry Parish	State: LA

Cascade

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Photograph Log

Photo No. 12

Location: City of Opelousas - Candy Street WWTP		
City: Opelousas	County/Parish: St. Landry Parish	State: LA

Outfall 001

Appendix B

Effluent Violation Summary

		Effluent Violations From 01/01/2023 - Present							
LA0036404									
City of Opelousas - Candy Street WWTP									
Monitoring Period End Date	**Perm e ID**	**Limi t Set**	**Parameter Desc**	**Statistical Base Short Desc**	**Limit Unit Short Desc**	**Limit Value**	**DMR Value Qualifie r Code**	**DMR Value**	**Reported Number of Excursion s**
01/31/2023	001	A	Chlorine, total residual	INST MAX	mg/L	.033	=	.22	2
01/31/2023	001	A	Coliform, fecal general	MOAV GEO	#/100mL	200.	=	217.3	2
01/31/2023	001	A	Coliform, fecal general	WKAV GEO	#/100mL	400.	=	623.6	2
01/31/2023	001	A	Solids, total suspended	MO AVG	lb/d	550.	=	620.	2
01/31/2023	001	A	Solids, total suspended	MO AVG	mg/L	20.	=	30.	2
01/31/2023	001	A	Solids, total suspended	WKLY AVG	mg/L	30.	=	65.	2
02/28/2023	001	A	Chlorine, total residual	INST MAX	mg/L	.033	=	.65	3
02/28/2023	001	A	Coliform, fecal general	MOAV GEO	#/100mL	200.	=	235.7	2
02/28/2023	001	A	Coliform, fecal general	WKAV GEO	#/100mL	400.	=	669.	2
02/28/2023	001	A	Solids, total suspended	MO AVG	lb/d	550.	=	866.	1
02/28/2023	001	A	Solids, total suspended	MO AVG	mg/L	20.	=	36.	1
02/28/2023	001	A	Solids, total suspended	WKLY AVG	mg/L	30.	=	95.	1
03/31/2023	001	A	Chlorine, total residual	INST MAX	mg/L	.033	=	.24	6
04/30/2023	001	A	Chlorine, total residual	INST MAX	mg/L	.033	=	.14	1
05/31/2023	001	A	Chlorine, total residual	INST MAX	mg/L	.033	=	.26	2
06/30/2023	001	A	Chlorine, total residual	INST MAX	mg/L	.033	=	.23	2
06/30/2023	001	A	Coliform, fecal general	MOAV GEO	#/100mL	200.	=	232.4	1
06/30/2023	001	A	Coliform, fecal general	WKAV GEO	#/100mL	400.	=	773.	1
07/31/2023	001	A	Chlorine, total residual	INST MAX	mg/L	.033	=	.06	3

07/31/2023	001	A	Coliform, fecal general	WKAV GEO	#/100mL	400.	=	2419.6	1
07/31/2023	001	A	Solids, total suspended	MO AVG	mg/L	10.	=	13.	2
07/31/2023	001	A	Solids, total suspended	WKLY AVG	mg/L	15.	=	23.	2
08/31/2023	001	A	Coliform, fecal general	MOAV GEO	#/100mL	200.	=	557.3	3
08/31/2023	001	A	Coliform, fecal general	WKAV GEO	#/100mL	400.	=	2419.6	3
08/31/2023	001	A	Nitrogen, ammonia total [as N]	MO AVG	lb/d	55.	=	105.	3
08/31/2023	001	A	Nitrogen, ammonia total [as N]	MO AVG	mg/L	2.	=	6.91	3
08/31/2023	001	A	Nitrogen, ammonia total [as N]	WKLY AVG	mg/L	4.	=	16.8	3
08/31/2023	001	A	Solids, total suspended	MO AVG	mg/L	10.	=	17.	1
08/31/2023	001	A	Solids, total suspended	WKLY AVG	mg/L	15.	=	45.	1
09/30/2023	001	A	Chlorine, total residual	INST MAX	mg/L	.033	=	.04	1
10/31/2023	001	A	Chlorine, total residual	INST MAX	mg/L	.033	=	.07	1
10/31/2023	001	A	Coliform, fecal general	MOAV GEO	#/100mL	200.	=	391.8	1
10/31/2023	001	A	Coliform, fecal general	WKAV GEO	#/100mL	400.	=	1938.5	1
11/30/2023	001	A	Chlorine, total residual	INST MAX	mg/L	.033	=	1.28	2
11/30/2023	001	A	Coliform, fecal general	MOAV GEO	#/100mL	200.	=	676.2	3
11/30/2023	001	A	Coliform, fecal general	WKAV GEO	#/100mL	400.	=	2192.4	3
11/30/2023	001	A	Solids, total suspended	MO AVG	mg/L	10.	=	13.	2
11/30/2023	001	A	Solids, total suspended	WKLY AVG	mg/L	15.	=	24.	2
12/31/2023	001	A	Chlorine, total residual	INST MAX	mg/L	.033	=	.47	2
12/31/2023	001	A	Coliform, fecal general	MOAV GEO	#/100mL	200.	=	513.7	2
12/31/2023	001	A	Coliform, fecal general	WKAV GEO	#/100mL	400.	=	2419.6	2
12/31/2023	001	A	Nitrogen, ammonia total [as N]	MO AVG	mg/L	2.	=	2.53	1
12/31/2023	001	A	Nitrogen, ammonia total [as N]	WKLY AVG	mg/L	4.	=	4.33	1
12/31/2023	001	A	Solids, total suspended	MO AVG	mg/L	10.	=	18.	1
12/31/2023	001	A	Solids, total suspended	WKLY AVG	mg/L	15.	=	44.	1
01/31/2024	001	A	Chlorine, total residual	INST MAX	mg/L	.033	=	.12	2
01/31/2024	001	A	Coliform, fecal general	MOAV GEO	#/100mL	200.	=	482.4	2

01/31/2024	001	A	Coliform, fecal general	WKAV GEO	#/100mL	400.	=	2419.6	2
01/31/2024	001	A	Solids, total suspended	WKLY AVG	mg/L	30.	=	34.	1
02/29/2024	001	A	Chlorine, total residual	INST MAX	mg/L	.033	=	.06	1
02/29/2024	001	A	Coliform, fecal general	MOAV GEO	#/100mL	200.	=	208.3	2
02/29/2024	001	A	Coliform, fecal general	WKAV GEO	#/100mL	400.	=	1492.6	2
03/31/2024	001	A	Chlorine, total residual	INST MAX	mg/L	.033	=	.41	3
03/31/2024	001	A	Coliform, fecal general	MOAV GEO	#/100mL	200.	=	262.	1
03/31/2024	001	A	Coliform, fecal general	WKAV GEO	#/100mL	400.	=	1026.2	1
04/30/2024	001	A	Chlorine, total residual	INST MAX	mg/L	.033	=	.1	2
04/30/2024	001	A	Coliform, fecal general	MOAV GEO	#/100mL	200.	=	237.6	1
04/30/2024	001	A	Coliform, fecal general	WKAV GEO	#/100mL	400.	=	2419.6	1
04/30/2024	001	A	Oxygen, dissolved [DO]	MO AV MN	mg/L	6.	=	5.8	1
05/31/2024	001	A	Chlorine, total residual	INST MAX	mg/L	.033	=	.18	4
05/31/2024	001	A	Coliform, fecal general	MOAV GEO	#/100mL	200.	=	2014.5	5
05/31/2024	001	A	Coliform, fecal general	WKAV GEO	#/100mL	400.	=	2419.6	5
06/30/2024	001	A	Chlorine, total residual	INST MAX	mg/L	.033	=	.05	3
06/30/2024	001	A	Coliform, fecal general	MOAV GEO	#/100mL	200.	>	2419.6	4
06/30/2024	001	A	Coliform, fecal general	WKAV GEO	#/100mL	400.	>	2419.6	4
07/31/2024	001	A	Chlorine, total residual	INST MAX	mg/L	.033	=	.23	2
07/31/2024	001	A	Coliform, fecal general	MOAV GEO	#/100mL	200.	=	731.4	3
07/31/2024	001	A	Coliform, fecal general	WKAV GEO	#/100mL	400.	=	2419.6	3
08/31/2024	001	A	Chlorine, total residual	INST MAX	mg/L	.033	=	.09	3
08/31/2024	001	A	Coliform, fecal general	MOAV GEO	#/100mL	200.	=	247.1	2
08/31/2024	001	A	Coliform, fecal general	WKAV GEO	#/100mL	400.	=	2419.6	2
09/30/2024	001	A	Chlorine, total residual	INST MAX	mg/L	.033	=	.17	1
09/30/2024	001	A	Solids, total suspended	WKLY AVG	mg/L	15.	=	25.	1
10/31/2024	001	A	Chlorine, total residual	INST MAX	mg/L	.033	=	.18	4

10/31/2024	001	A	Coliform, fecal general	WKAV GEO	#/100mL	400.	=	2419.6	1
11/30/2024	001	A	Chlorine, total residual	INST MAX	mg/L	.033	=	.63	3
11/30/2024	001	A	Coliform, fecal general	MOAV GEO	#/100mL	200.	=	1309.3	4
11/30/2024	001	A	Coliform, fecal general	WKAV GEO	#/100mL	400.	=	2419.6	4
11/30/2024	001	A	Solids, total suspended	MO AVG	mg/L	10.	=	12.	2
11/30/2024	001	A	Solids, total suspended	WKLY AVG	mg/L	15.	=	22.	2
12/31/2024	001	A	Chlorine, total residual	INST MAX	mg/L	.033	=	.18	5
12/31/2024	001	A	Coliform, fecal general	MOAV GEO	#/100mL	200.	>	2419.6	4
12/31/2024	001	A	Coliform, fecal general	WKAV GEO	#/100mL	400.	>	2419.6	4
12/31/2024	001	A	Nitrogen, ammonia total [as N]	MO AVG	lb/d	55.	=	74.	2
12/31/2024	001	A	Nitrogen, ammonia total [as N]	MO AVG	mg/L	2.	=	3.42	2
12/31/2024	001	A	Nitrogen, ammonia total [as N]	WKLY AVG	mg/L	4.	=	5.82	2
01/31/2025	001	A	Chlorine, total residual	INST MAX	mg/L	.033	=	1.78	4
01/31/2025	001	A	Coliform, fecal general	MOAV GEO	#/100mL	200.	=	216.1	2
01/31/2025	001	A	Coliform, fecal general	WKAV GEO	#/100mL	400.	=	2419.6	2
01/31/2025	001	A	Solids, total suspended	MO AVG	lb/d	550.	=	606.	1
01/31/2025	001	A	Solids, total suspended	MO AVG	mg/L	20.	=	39.	1
01/31/2025	001	A	Solids, total suspended	WKLY AVG	mg/L	30.	=	114.	1
02/28/2025	001	A	Chlorine, total residual	INST MAX	mg/L	.033	=	.32	2
02/28/2025	001	A	Coliform, fecal general	WKAV GEO	#/100mL	400.	=	2419.6	2
03/31/2025	001	A	Chlorine, total residual	INST MAX	mg/L	.033	=	.4	4
03/31/2025	001	A	Coliform, fecal general	MOAV GEO	#/100mL	200.	=	1953.8	4
03/31/2025	001	A	Coliform, fecal general	WKAV GEO	#/100mL	400.	=	2419.6	4
04/30/2025	001	A	Chlorine, total residual	INST MAX	mg/L	.033	=	2.2	4
04/30/2025	001	A	Coliform, fecal general	WKAV GEO	#/100mL	400.	=	2419.6	1
04/30/2025	001	A	Solids, total suspended	WKLY AVG	mg/L	30.	=	40.	1