



REGION 4

ATLANTA, GA 30303

ELECTRONIC MAIL

CONFIRMATION OF EMAIL RECEIPT REQUESTED

Willie Readus
Mayor
Town of Sledge
400 Main Street
Sledge, MS 38670
townofsledge@comcast.net

Dear Willie Readus:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4 conducted a Compliance Evaluation Inspection (CEI) on the Town of Sledge (Town) Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) on August 13, 2024. The objective of the CEI was to assess the Town's compliance with the Clean Water Act and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, and to evaluate the general conditions of the POTW. The inspection results have been summarized in the enclosed CEI Report.

If you have specific questions about the inspection report, please contact Mr. Brad Ammons via email or at 404.562.9769. Please verify receipt of this letter and report by emailing Mr. Ammons at the email address provided.

Sincerely,

**JAIRO
CASTILLO**

Digitally signed by JAIRO
CASTILLO
Date: 2024.10.03
16:46:45 -04'00'

Jairo Castillo, P.E., Chief
Wastewater Enforcement Section
Water Enforcement Branch

ENCLOSURES

1. Sledge MS POTW CEI Report

cc: James Gammill
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
jgammill@mdeq.ms.gov

William Q. West
Contract Operator, Town of Sledge
qmwest104@gmail.com

Tracey Rosebud
Manager Partner of Mr. West, Town of Sledge
traceyrosebud@yahoo.com

United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 4
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division
Water Enforcement Branch
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303



Compliance Evaluation Inspection Report
Sledge POTW
Lagoon Road,
Sledge, MS 38670
NPDES Permit Number: MS0021016

Project No. CV-MS0021016-08132024

Date of Inspection:
August 13, 2024

Inspectors:
Brad Ammons, EPA Region 4
Mel-chilecee Taylor, EPA Region 4

Inspection Report Prepared by:
Brad Ammons

Title and Approval Sheet

Title: Sledge MS POTW CEI Report CV-MS0021016-08132024

Approving Official:

JAIRO
CASTILLO



Digitally signed by JAIRO
CASTILLO
Date: 2024.10.03
16:44:59 -04'00'

Jairo Castillo, P.E., Chief
Wastewater Enforcement Section
Water Enforcement Branch

Enforcement Officer:

MICHAEL AMMONS



Digitally signed by
MICHAEL AMMONS
Date: 2024.10.02
16:24:31 -04'00'

Brad Ammons, Environmental Engineer
Wastewater Enforcement Section
Water Enforcement Branch

COMPLIANCE EVALUATION INSPECTION REPORT
Sledge MS POTW, Project # CV-MS0021016-08132024

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1. Introduction

On August 13, 2024, representatives of the United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 4, and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) conducted a Compliance Evaluation Inspection (CEI) on the Town of Sledge Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW), owned by the Town of Sledge, Mississippi (The Town) and operated by William Q. West. The inspection was conducted under the authority of Section 308 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), as amended. This report provides a summary of the inspection.

2. Participants

Name	Organization	Contact Information
Brad Ammons	EPA Region 4	Ammons.brad@epa.gov
Mel-chilecee Taylor	EPA Region 4	Taylor.melchilecee@epa.gov
James Gammill	MDEQ	jgammill@mdeq.ms.gov
William Q. West	Town Contractor	Qmwest104@gmail.com
Willie Readus	Mayor	Townofsledge@comcast.net

3. Facility Description

The Sledge POTW is a three-cell lagoon treatment system located on Lagoon Road in Sledge, MS. The facility is currently permitted under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit number MS0021016 to discharge 0.22 million gallons per day (MGD) from Outfall 001 into an unnamed creek then to David Bayou.

The POTW consists of a three-cell lagoon with aeration in the first cell and a rotating contactor in the third cell. The treated effluent passes through a chlorine contact chamber which uses gaseous chlorine for disinfection. The effluent is injected with SO₂ gas for de-chlorination prior to discharge. The effluent passes over a weir plate (primary flow measurement device) prior to discharge to the pipe leading to the receiving stream.

The facility's current wastewater plant staff are as follows:

- One contract Mississippi Wastewater Treatment Class 4 Operator.

4. Inspection Procedures

The overall objective of this CEI was to evaluate the condition and operational performance of the POTW and Sledge's self-monitoring program and to offer compliance assistance as needed. Specific tasks included conducting an opening conference, interviewing POTW staff, reviewing laboratory and Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) records, conducting a POTW walkthrough, and a closing conference.



Figure 1. Aerial View of Facility

5. Findings & Conclusions

A. Permit Review

Sledge's NPDES permit MS0021016 has an effective date of December 20, 2019, and expires on November 30, 2024. The NPDES permit lists Effluent Limitations and Monitoring Requirements for Outfall 001 (Treated Domestic Wastewater) that discharges into an unnamed creek then to David Bayou.

B. Records and Reports

The EPA's Enforcement Compliance History Online (ECHO) shows that the Town failed to submit the Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMR) for 2022 and 2024 and reported effluent limitation exceedances for E. coli and Ammonia in 4th quarters of calendar years 2021 and 2022.

Recent DMRs and analytical results from Sledge's contract laboratory (Waypoint Analytical in Memphis, TN) were reviewed onsite, which the Town was able to reproduce for most of the required quarterly sampling for 2021-2023. The Town had a copy of their NPDES permit and during the inspection some of the analytical results, chain of custody, and DMRs were present which met permit required retention times and were well organized. Mr. West agreed to email three years of quarterly records. EPA hasn't received the records. Finally, Mr. West stated that he kept all the Town's maintenance logs since September 2023, when he was hired, and he produced his weekly Flow and Residual Chlorine sample records.

C. Flow Measurement

Mr. West uses a yardstick at the v-notch weir to determine flow and records the depth in his notebook.

D. Sampling/Laboratory

Mr. West samples and analyzes the Residual Chlorine and Flow parameters weekly for the Town. The Town contracts with Waypoint Analytical in Memphis, TN to analyze Biochemical Oxygen Demand, 5-day (BOD₅), Ammonia-Nitrogen, Total Nitrogen, E. coli, Total Phosphorus and Total Suspended Solids, pH, and Dissolved Oxygen.

E. Site Visit (Operation and Maintenance)

The following components were observed:

- Chlorine is injected at the head of the chlorine contact chamber (Photo 1) and SO₂ is injected at the end of the chlorine contact chamber for dechlorination (Photo 2). A spontaneous check for residual chlorine showed below detection limit (0.02 mg/L) for the handheld colorimeter Mr. West uses (Photo 3).
- Cell 1's two aerators were out of service (Photo 4) and the lagoon was completely covered in algae.
- Cell 2 was completely covered in algae (Photo 5).
- Cell 3's rotating contactor was out of service and the area of the berm there was covered in woody plants (Photo 6).

F. Sludge Handling

Sludge was not evaluated during the inspection as this is a lagoon. No record of lagoon dredging was available.

G. Effluent/Receiving Water

The effluent being discharged through Outfall 001 into the unnamed creek was not evaluated during the inspection due to restricted access (overgrown vegetation). Effluent was being discharged at the time of the inspection.

6. Discussion

The facility DMR non-receipt Significant Non-Compliance (SNC) violations are due to not reporting laboratory analytical results into NetDMR. Most of the analytical results from Waypoint Analytical laboratory were produced, but Mr. West has not yet emailed to EPA three years of quarterly records as requested. Sledge should repair the two non-functioning aerators in Cell 1 and the non-functional rotating contactor in Cell 3.

Algal blooms in a wastewater lagoon, especially an aerated lagoon, affects the treatment process and effluent quality. Algae create oxygen during the day and consume it at night, leaving less oxygen available for BOD-consuming bacteria to use. High algae can also create high TSS and BOD₅ effluent concentrations that will generate a high oxygen demand in the receiving water. Sledge should control algal blooms in their lagoon to support adequate wastewater treatment.

END OF REPORT

Appendix 1: Photographic Log



Photo 1: Chlorine injection point.



Photo 2: Sulfur Dioxide injection point.



Photo 3: Residual Chlorine reading of 0.02 mg/L.



Photo 4: Cell 1 (location of non-functional aerators)



Photo 5: View of Cell 2 full of algae.



Photo 6: Lagoon- Cell 3 (non-functional rotating contactor and woody vegetation in berm).