

INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Entry Date/Time	06/24/2024 09:00 AM (PT)	Announced: Yes	
Inspection Exit Date/Time	06/24/2024 01:30 PM (PT)	Access: Granted	
Weather	55°F, Overcast		
Media	Water		
Statute(s)/Program(s)	Clean Water Act, NPDES, WWTP		
Type of Inspection	Compliance Evaluation Inspection		
Permittee Name	City of Wrangell		
Facility or Site Name	Wrangell WWTP		
Facility Physical Address	Zimovia Highway, Mile Marker 1.7		
City, State, Zip Code	Wrangell, Alaska 99929		
Borough	Wrangell		
Facility GPS Coordinates	56.453082, -132.380233		
Facility Mailing Address	P.O. Box 531		
City, State, Zip Code	Wrangell, Alaska 99929		
FRS ID	110064637898		
Permit Number	AK0021466		
SIC	4952 (Sewerage Systems)		
Lead Inspector:			
Raymond Andrews	EPA Region 10	andrews.raymond@epa.gov	(206) 553-4252
Supervisor Review:			
Peter Contreras	EPA Region 10	contreras.peter@epa.gov	(206) 553-6708

SECTION I – Opening Conference

I arrived at the Wrangell WWTP (the “Site” or “Facility”), located at Zimovia Hwy, Mile Marker 1.7 in Wrangell, Alaska, at 09:00 AM (PT) on 06/24/2024 for an announced inspection. I presented my credentials to Tom Wetor and informed him I was there to determine compliance with the Clean Water Act (CWA), and the facility’s National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, permit # AK0021466. This report is based on information supplied by facility representatives, direct observations made by me, and records and reports maintained by the facility. In addition, information gathered prior to, or after, the Inspection from a review of EPA, State, and/or public records may be included in this report.

Attendees

Organization	Attendee Name	Title	Present in Opening Conf.	Present in Closing Conf.
EPA REGION 10	Raymond Andrews	Lead Inspector	Yes	Yes
City of Wrangell	Tom Wetor	Public Works Director	Yes	Yes
City of Wrangell	Jeff Davidson	Wastewater Lead Operator	Yes	Yes
City of Wrangell	Wade Jack	Wastewater Operator Apprentice	Yes	Yes

Facility/Site Information

Responsible official?	Mr. Tom Wetor; twetor@wrangell.com, cc Jeff Davidson
What is the facility's service population?	The facility has a year-round resident service population of approximately 1600. The service population swells to approximately 2100 in Summer.
How many employees does the facility have? What are the employees' certifications?	The facility has four operators, two operators are full time and two are on-call. Jeff Davidson, Lead Operator, has a Level 2 Certification in both Collections and Treatment. Among the other three operators, there are a Level 1 in both Treatment and Collections, as well as a Provisional in both Treatment and Collections.
What is the facility's operation schedule?	The facility is fully staffed Monday through Friday from 6am until 3:30pm. There is an operator on-call on weekends and holidays.
What is the facility's design capacity and average daily flow?	The facility was “overbuilt” and has a design capacity of 3.6 million gallons per day (MGD). The facility has a monthly average flow of 0.6mgd.
What is the facility's primary flow measuring device?	The facility uses an in-line ultrasonic flow measuring device.
How often is measuring device calibrated?	Per the manufacturer, the flow measuring device does not require calibration.
Does the facility have a secondary flow measuring device?	The facility does not have a secondary flow measuring device.

Does the facility accept waste from septage haulers? If so, what problems have you experienced, if any?	The facility approximately 40,000 gallons of waste from septage haulers annually. The waste is dumped into a collection approximately three miles from the facility. Per facility staff, by the time the waste reaches the treatment facility it is well mixed and has no negative effects on the facility's operation.
Are there any industrial users?	The facility has not identified any industrial users in its service area.
Describe the facility's flow path.	The influent goes through a screening system. After passing through the screens, the waste stream goes to the aeration basin where it spends five to seven days. The aeration basin has three blowers installed. One blower is always running. The second and third blowers are activated as needed to increase or decrease dissolved oxygen in the water. After aeration, the wastewater goes to the settling basin where it spends three to four days to allow solids to settle out. piped under road to outfall. From the settling basin, the effluent is piped under the road to the outfall where it is discharged.
How are biosolids managed?	The facility manages biosolids by removing sludge from the lagoons as needed. The facility has not had to have sludge removed in the last five years.
Where do you sample influent? Effluent?	The influent is sampled just before screening. The effluent is sampled at the weir.
How many outfalls does the facility have?	The facility has a single outfall. The outfall is submerged so there is no direct inspection of the outfall. On a monthly basis, the area of the outfall is visually inspected for foam, debris, and sheen.
What is the facility's receiving water?	The facility discharges into Zimovia Strait.
Which parameters are analyzed in-house?	The facility analyzes pH, dissolved oxygen (DO), settleable solids and turbidity in-house.
Which parameters are analyzed by the contract laboratory?	Fecal coliform, biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), total settleable solids (TSS), and ammonia are analyzed by a contract lab. The contract used is: Admiralty Environmental 641 W. Willoughby Avenue Suite 301 Juneau, Alaska 99801 (907) 463-4415
Has the facility had any bypasses or hydraulic overloads in the past 5-years?	The facility has not had any bypasses or hydraulic overloads in the last five years.
Does the facility have overflow capacity?	The facility does not have overflow or emergency capacity.
Does the facility have back-up power?	The facility has a back-up generator. The generator is manually activated in the event of power failure.
What part of the facility is on back-up power?	All parts of the treatment facility are powered by the generator.

Are there shared or contributing jurisdictions?	The facility does not have any shared jurisdictions.
Does the facility have a failure alarm? How is an alarm addressed?	The facility has a failure alarm through a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system. If the SCADA detects a problem, an automated phone call is made to the operators.
Has the facility been renovated or upgraded in the last 5-years?	There have been no changes to the facility in the last five years.
Are there any plans to renovate or upgrade the facility?	Have initiated a study to add disinfection. The facility is expecting to have to add disinfection when the new permit comes out.

SECTION II – Observations

I did not observe anything that would constitute an area of concern.

SECTION III – Records Review

Records may not be in sequential order.

Record: Other - Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Plan		AOC: No
Ref #: RA1-RR-005	Reviewed By: Raymond Andrews	Reviewed Date: 06/24/2024
At the time of the inspection, I reviewed the facility's O&M Plan, dated November 2002. I did not note any Areas of Concern.		
Record: Other - EPA's Integrated Compliance Information System (ICIS) Database		AOC: Yes
Ref #: RA1-RR-004	Reviewed By: Raymond Andrews	Reviewed Date: 06/24/2024
At the time of inspection, I reviewed information in EPA's ICIS database from June 2019 through May 2024. The database indicated the facility exceeded its "BOD, 5-day, percent removal" limit in November 2019. The BOD exceedance was previously noted in an Offsite Compliance Monitoring Report submitted in September 2020 by EPA Inspector Jon Klemesrud. Since the BOD exceedance was noted in a previous inspection report. , I have not included it in my areas of concern.		
In January 2022, the facility exceeded its "Flow" limit of 0.6 million gallons per day (MGD) by 0.016 mgd.		
Record: DMR Reports		AOC: No
Ref #: RA1-RR-003	Reviewed By: Raymond Andrews	Reviewed Date: 06/24/2024
At the time of the inspection, I reviewed the facility's Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) and Chain of Custody (CoC) documents from January 2021 through May 2024. I did not note any Areas of Concern.		
Record: Other - Annual Reports		AOC: No
Ref #: RA1-RR-002	Reviewed By: Raymond Andrews	Reviewed Date: 06/24/2024
At the time of inspection, I reviewed the facility's annual reports for 2021, 2022, and 2023. The 2023 Annual Report cover letter contained a couple of typo errors that resulted in a couple of incorrect dates. However, I do not consider these minor errors as rising to level of an Area of Concern.		

Record: Other - Quality Assurance Project Plan		AOC: No
Ref #: RA1-RR-001	Reviewed By: Raymond Andrews	Reviewed Date: 06/24/2024
At the time of inspection, I reviewed the facility's Quality Assurance Plan (QAP), dated January 10, 2011. I found no areas of concern.		

SECTION IV – Sampling Activities

No sampling was conducted.

SECTION V – Areas of Concern

Areas of Concern may not be in sequential order.

The presentation of Area(s) of Concern does not constitute a formal compliance determination or violation.

AOC Reference #: RA1-RR-004	Records Review: Other - EPA's Integrated Compliance Information System (ICIS) Database
Permit Requirement Part I.A, Table 1 shows the facility flow should not exceed a monthly average of 0.6mgd or a maximum daily flow of 3.6mgd.	
AOC: In January 2022, the facility exceeded its "Flow" limit of 0.6 million gallons per day (MGD) by 0.016 mgd.	

SECTION VI – Closing Conference

I held a closing conference with facility personnel at 01:30 PM (PT) on 06/24/2024 for the inspection. During the closing conference, I discussed observations and Areas of Concern I identified during the inspection. Observations and Areas of Concern have not yet been evaluated for a formal compliance determination.

SECTION VII – List of Appendices

1. Photo Log

APPENDIX 1: Photo Log

All photos were taken by Lead EPA Inspector, Ray Andrews, during the inspection.

Photos were not manipulated beyond minor cropping for sizing and labels or callouts to draw attention to the subject of the photo.

All photos taken during the inspection are included in the Photo Log; however, only photos that support an Observation or Area of Concern are included in the inspection report.

- P1010976 – Auto-sampler, photo 1
- P1010977 – Auto-sampler, photo 2
- P1010978 – Auto-sampler, photo 3
- P1010979 – Aeration Basin
- P1010980 – Effluent Sampling Point
- P1010981 – Mixing Zone Sign, photo 1
- P1010982 – Mixing Zone Sign, photo 2