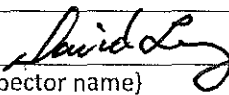
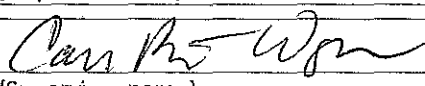


**Region 6 Compliance Assurance and Enforcement Division
INSPECTION REPORT**

Inspection Date(s):	May 5, 2016		
Media:	Water		
Regulatory Program(s)	CWA 308[A][B]		
Company Name:	City of Artesia		
Facility Name:	City of Artesia Wastewater Treatment Facility		
Facility Physical Location:	1702 North Haldeman		
(city, state, zip code)	Artesia, New Mexico 88210		
Mailing address:	1702 North Haldeman		
(city, state, zip code)	Artesia, New Mexico 88210		
County/Parish:	Eddy		
Facility Contact:	Jerry Whitehead		
	jwhitehead@artesianm.gov		
FRS Number:	110011031766		
Identification/Permit Number:	NM0022668		
Media Number:	NA		
NAICS:	221320		
SIC:	4952		
Facility Representatives:	Jerry Whitehead	Wastewater Supervisor	575.748.0260
	Patsy Hernandez	Lead Operator	575.748.0261
EPA Inspectors:	David Long	6EN-WM	214.665.7323
	Mitty Mohon	6EN-WM	214.665.6497
State Inspector(s):	Jennifer Foote	NMED	505.827.0596
Other Inspector(s):			
Metadata	Title:	City of Artesia Wastewater Treatment Facility, Artesia, New Mexico, Eddy County, New Mexico	
	Author:	US EPA Region 6 Compliance Assurance and Enforcement Division Dallas TX	
	Subject:	City of Artesia WWTP Compliance Evaluation Inspection Report (CEI)	
	Keywords:	Scheme neutral targeted inspection under ACS requirements	
EPA Lead Inspector Signature/Date			9/28/16
		(Inspector name)	Date
Supervisor Signature/Date			9/28/16
		(Supervisor name)	Date

Section I - INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE OF THE INSPECTION

A U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) compliance evaluation inspection was performed at the City of Artesia Wastewater Treatment Plant located at 1702 North Haldeman, Artesia, New Mexico on May 5, 2016. The inspection was conducted under the guidelines established by the USEPA under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) for wastewater treatment systems. This scheme neutral targeted site visit was performed as a part of the USEPA Region 6's annual ACS inspection commitment and its' purpose was to inspect and review current operations as compared to their NPDES permit requirements. An entry briefing was conducted by EPA-Region 6 inspector David Long at 10:00 a.m. and the inspector met with WWTP Supervisor Jerry Whitehead and Lead Operator Patsy Hernandez who were present for the site tour, laboratory review and exit interview. The EPA inspector was also accompanied by EPA inspector Mitty Mohon and New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) inspector, Jennifer Foote. During the entry briefing, the EPA and NMED inspectors provided credentials and explained the purpose of the inspection

FACILITY DESCRIPTION

The Artesia WWTP is a major municipal discharger with a design flow of 2.6 million gallons a day (MGD) and average daily flow of 1.5 MGD. The facility operates under NPDES permit NM0022668. The discharge from the WWTP is to the Pecos River. The designated uses for the Pecos River segment 20.6.4.206 include irrigation, livestock watering, wildlife habitat, secondary contact and warm water aquatic life.

The City of Artesia facility is in operation 24 hours each day and seven days per week with operators on site from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. A Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system provides 24/7 monitoring of plant operations. Treatment units at the facility include two bar screens and grit removal system at the headworks, followed by four race track design oxidation ditches, extended air treatment units. Each day, each race track rotates through periods of anoxic and aerobic mixing and settling. The racetracks discharge to two secondary clarifiers which discharge effluent to a new filtration system which then feeds into their UV disinfection system prior to discharge to the Pecos River or to a reuse pond for application in city parks. The facility also maintains an emergency HTH Chlorine/Sodium Thiosulfate system should the UV disinfection fail. Solids removed from the racetracks and/or the final clarifiers are sent to a thickener followed by a sludge press. Following the press, the sludge is placed in concrete beds (underdrains send excess liquid back to the headworks) for composting into Class A sludge for land application.

Section II - OBSERVATIONS

The facility generated 149.63 dry metric tons of Class A composted sludge in 2015. The resulting Class A composted sludge is used for local agricultural purposes and none is sent to the landfill.

Flow, at the time of inspection, was being routed to their holding pond for land application. However, a comparison of their primary (12 inch Parshall) and secondary (HACH SC200 last calibrated August 13, 2015) flow measurement devices demonstrated a variance greater than 11%. It was suggested at that time that the secondary flow measurement device, which is also used to measure total flow, be re-calibrated.

Following the site tour, facility paperwork used to generate DMR data was reviewed for both precision and accuracy. Reported DMR values demonstrated a variance of approximately eight percent when compared to the manually calculated DMR values. The variance is due to the facility's use of average monthly daily flow instead of the required actual daily flow when calculating loading values. The reported values on their DMRs are also skewed by the incorrect flow rates being reported by their flow meter. Despite these issues, the facility has not reported any DMR violations in the past 12 months. The EPA inspector indicated that the facility should re-calculate the DMR values using actual daily flows and submit any DMR violations to the EPA Region 6 office.

Lastly, the City of Artesia WWTP laboratory was inspected for compliance with the 40 CFR 136 required analytical methods. It must be noted that any variation from the approved method can result in an invalidated sample, should the results ever be challenged in the court system. Therefore, any variations noted during this part of the inspection should be considered critical issues that require immediate attention. Issues noted during this part of the inspection include lack of appropriate signatures and date stamps on Chain of Custody documentation. Additionally, the Artesia laboratory does not regularly test for chlorine residual in their BOD sample analysis, but only when their HTH Chlorination system is in use. Due the ubiquitous nature of chlorine in various products, it was suggested that the laboratory always perform a check for chlorine residual in their final effluent samples. Finally, the facility is using an unapproved pour method for their Total Suspended Solids analysis as required by 40 CFR 136.3.

Section III – AREAS OF CONCERN

At the conclusion of the inspection, the EPA inspectors met with WWTP representatives for an exit interview at 2:30 p.m. on May 5, 2016. At that time, the inspectors provided details of the inspection and reviewed issues noted in the inspection that might require additional follow-up or correction. These issues included:

1. Corrections to the Discharge Monitoring Report Calculation Spreadsheet using actual daily flows instead of a monthly daily average flow
2. Re-calibration of their flow meter
3. Laboratory needs to analyze BOD samples for chlorine residual prior to analysis and correct their TSS pour method
4. Correct signatory procedures for Chain of Custody documents

The inspectors exited the site at 3:00 p.m.

Section IV – FOLLOW UP

None required at this time

Section V – LIST OF APPENDICES

None

