

Region 6 - Enforcement & Compliance Assurance Division

INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Date(s):	06/07/2023	
Media Program:	Water	
Regulatory Program(s)	NPDES	
Company Name:	Pojoaque Pueblo	
Facility Name:	Towa Resort Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)	
Facility Physical Location:	20 Buffalo Thunder Trail	
(city, state, zip code)	Pojoaque Pueblo, Santa Fe County, New Mexico	
Mailing address:	Post Office Box 4219	
(city, state, zip code)	Pojoaque Pueblo, New Mexico 87506	
County/Parish:	Santa Fe	
Facility Phone Number	(505) 490-2418	
Facility Contact:	Kevin Romero	Supervisor Water/Wastewater
	KRomero@pojoaque.org	
FRS Number:	110037117679	
Identification/Permit Number:	NM0030601	
Media Identifier Number:	NA	
NAICS:	221320	
SIC:	4952	
Personnel participating in inspection:		
Kevin Romero	Pojoaque Pueblo	Supervisor Water/Wastewater
David A. Esparza	USEPA/6ECDWM	Environmental Engineer
EPA Lead Inspector Signature/Date		
	David Esparza	Date
Supervisor Signature/Date		
	Roberto Bernier	Date

Section I – INTRODUCTION

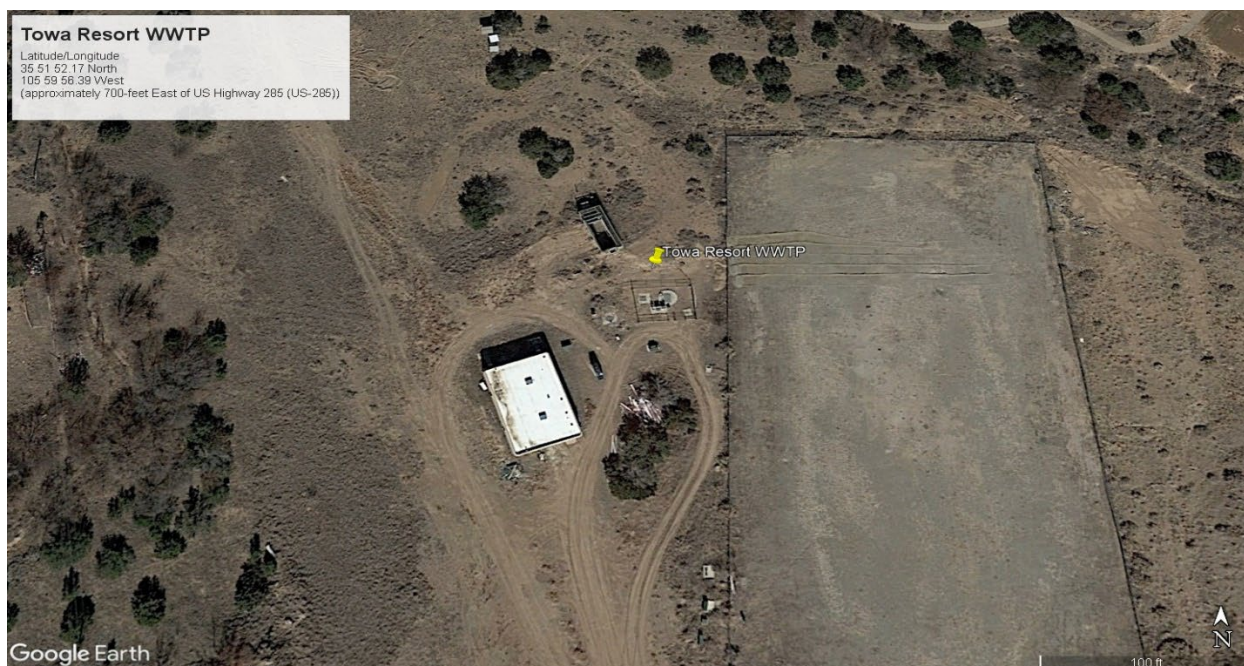
PURPOSE OF THE INSPECTION

EPA Region 6 inspector David Esparza, PE, arrived at Pojoaque Pueblo Buffalo Thunder Resort for the opening meeting prior to traveling to the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) (Towa Resort WWTP) office at 1:00 PM on June 7, 2023, for an announced inspection. I met with Mr. Kevin Romero, Pojoaque Pueblo, presented them my credentials and informed them that this was an EPA inspection to determine Pojoaque Pueblo's-Towa Resort WWTP compliance under the Clean Water Act (CWA). This compliance evaluation inspection (CEI) was conducted under the authority 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 Pojoaque Pueblo representatives, observations made by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) inspector, and records and reports maintained by the permittee, and the US EPA. Before leaving the facility, an exit briefing was held at approximately 2:00 PM with above-described individual to answer any questions.

FACILITY DESCRIPTION

The WWTP is a minor discharger with a design flow capacity of 0.20 MGD (million gallons per day). The facility is located at 27 Tribal Works Road, adjacent to U.S. Highway 285 and northwest of the Buffalo Thunder Casino Resort, Pojoaque Pueblo, Santa Fe County, New Mexico (depicted in Aerial Image #1 below). The WWTP is no longer in operation and all appurtenant equipment has been removed and ancillary services have been disconnected. The original NPDES permit was issued on July 21, 2006 (with an effective date of September 1, 2006) and an expiration date of August 31, 2011. The permit was terminated on March 6, 2019.

This CEI was conducted to determine the existence and/or operational status of the WWTP. However, associated documentation, inclusive of past inspection reports, NPDES Fact Sheets etc., could not be located.



Aerial Image #1: Overall view of the Pojoaque Pueblo-Towa Resort Wastewater Treatment Plant location. Aerial from Google Earth Maps.

Section II – OBSERVATIONS

I observed the following and/or the following information was provided and/or stated:

- All the electrical wiring has been severed and associated treatment equipment been removed.
- After decommissioning of the Towa Resort WWTP, the Buffalo Thunder Resort tied into the Pojoaque Pueblo community non-discharging lagoon system.

Section III – AREAS OF CONCERN

I observed no areas of concern at the time of the inspection.

Section IV – FOLLOW UP

No additional information was received by EPA after exiting the Facility on June 7, 2023.

Section V – LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Photo Log – 6 photos taken 06/7/2023

Appendix 1

Photograph Log



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Photograph Log

Photo No. 1

Location: Pojoaque Pueblo-Towa Resort Wastewater Treatment Plant		
City: Pojoaque Pueblo	County/Parish: Santa Fe	State: New Mexico



Picture of the inside of the decommissioned Towa WWTP treatment process basins. (DSCN 2559).
Photographed by D. Esparza.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Photograph Log

Photo No. 2

Location: Pojoaque Pueblo-Towa Resort Wastewater Treatment Plant		
City: Pojoaque Pueblo	County/Parish: Santa Fe	State: New Mexico



Another view of the inside of the decommissioned Towa WWTP treatment process basins. (DSCN 2560). Photographed by D. Esparza.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Photograph Log

Photo No. 3

Location: Pojoaque Pueblo-Towa Resort Wastewater Treatment Plant		
City: Pojoaque Pueblo	County/Parish: Santa Fe	State: New Mexico



An overall view of the inside of the decommissioned Towa WWTP treatment process basins. (DSCN 2561). Photographed by D. Esparza.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Photograph Log

Photo No. 4

Location: Pojoaque Pueblo-Towa Resort Wastewater Treatment Plant		
City: Pojoaque Pueblo	County/Parish: Santa Fe	State: New Mexico



View of a portion of the electrical wiring that has been severed. (DSCN 2563). Photographed by D. Esparza.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Photograph Log

Photo No. 5

Location: Pojoaque Pueblo-Towa Resort Wastewater Treatment Plant		
City: Pojoaque Pueblo	County/Parish: Santa Fe	State: New Mexico



View of some of the associated treatment equipment that has been removed. (DSCN 2562).
Photographed by D. Esparza.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Photograph Log

Photo No. 6

Location: Pojoaque Pueblo-Towa Resort Wastewater Treatment Plant		
City: Pojoaque Pueblo	County/Parish: Santa Fe	State: New Mexico



View of the inside of the decommissioned WWTP wet well. Note: the standing water was a result of a previous rain event. (DSCN 2567). Photographed by D. Esparza.