



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

ELECTRONIC MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Howard Brown
235 Milton Mashburn Drive
Andrews, North Carolina 28901
Email: eatmoretrout@yahoo.com

Re: Reconnaissance Inspection Report, NPDES Permit No. NC0054992
Cherokee Trout Farm at Morgan Mill

Dear Mr. Brown:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4 inspected the Cherokee Trout Farm at Morgan Mill located at 10285 Big Cove Road, Cherokee, North Carolina on May 10, 2022, for compliance with its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit and the Clean Water Act.

The inspections findings are provided in the enclosed Reconnaissance Inspection Report. If you have any questions about the inspection report, please contact Tristan Odekirk at (404) 562-9295 or via email at Odekirk.Tristan@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosure

	United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 4 CV-NC0054992-5-10-2022			
	Reconnaissance Inspection Report			
	SECTION A: National Data System Coding			

NPDES No.	MO/DAY/YR	Inspection-Type	Inspector	Facility-Type
NC0054992	5/10/2022	ROS	Tristan Odekirk	Industrial wastewater facility

SECTION B: Facility Data		
Name and Location of Facility Inspected (For industrial users discharging to POTW, also include POTW name and NPDES permit number) Cherokee Trout Farm at Morgan Mill 10285 Big Cove Road Cherokee, North Carolina 28901	Entry Date/Time 5/10/2022 12:30 AM Exit Date/Time 5/10/2022 1:00 PM	Permit Effective Date 6/9/2017 Permit Expiration Date 6/9/2022
Names of On-site Representative(s)/Title(s)/Phone and Fax Number(s) Howard Brown, owner, C.R. Brown Enterprises Inc. 828-321-3334 eatmoretrout@yahoo.com Raine Tetreault, Lead Environmental Lab Technical EBCI Natural Resources Program 828-359-6771, RaineTr@ebci-nsn.gov Michael Bolt, Manager, Tribal Environmental Laboratory, EBCI Natural Resources Program MichBolt@ebci-nsn.gov	Other Facility Data	
Name, Address of Responsible Official/Title/Phone and Fax Number Howard Brown, owner, C.R. Brown Enterprises Inc. 828-321-3334 eatmoretrout@yahoo.com	Contacted ☒ Yes ☐ No	

SECTION C: Areas Evaluated During Inspection (Check only those areas evaluated)							
☐	Permit	☐	Flow Measurement	☐	Operation & Maintenance	☐	CSO/SSO (Sewer Overflow)
☒	Records/Reports	☐	Self-Monitoring Program	☐	Sludge Handling/Disposal	☐	Pollution Prevention
☒	Facility Site Review	☐	Compliance Schedules	☐	Pretreatment	☐	Multimedia
☐	Effluent/Receiving Waters	☐	Laboratory	☐	Storm Water	☐	Other:

SECTION D: Summary of Findings/Comments (Attach additional sheets of narrative and checklists as necessary) See attached comments

Name(s) and Signature(s) of Inspector(s) Tristan Odekirk	Agency/Division/Phone and Fax Number USEPA R4, ECAD, 404-562-9295	Date
Signature of Management QA Reviewer Jairo Castillo	Agency/Division/Phone and Fax Number USEPA R4, ECAD, 404-562-9257	Date



United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 4
CV-NC0054992-5-10-2022
Reconnaissance Inspection Report
(Continued)

Section D: Summary of Findings / Comments

On Friday April 29, 2022, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) Water Quality Program contacted Region 4 USEPA with notice of a potential unpermitted discharge from the Cherokee Trout Farm at Morgan Mill. In response, on May 10, 2022, the EPA conducted a Reconnaissance Inspection (RI) at the Cherokee Trout Farm at Morgan Mill located in 10285 Big Cove Road, Cherokee, North Carolina, 28901. EPA met with Mr. Howard Brown, owner of the facility, and inspected the facility's water intake structure and reviewed their monitoring records. The following is a summary of RI findings and observations.

I. Facility Review

The discharge from the facility was from the intake structure as seen in Figures 1-4. EPA observed that the water had no contact with any trout ponds before being discharged to the Raven Fork River.



Figure 1. Discharge from the facility as seen from upstream on opposite shore of the Raven Fork River (Receiving stream).



Figure 2. Same view as Figure 1 but zoomed in. Facility structures visible behind trees (red circle).



Figure 3. Facility water intake structure. Overflow seen is source of new discharge. This water has no contact with any trout ponds.



Figure 4. View of discharge entering Raven Fork River from the facility. Cascades shown are the same as visible in Figure 1.

II. Discharge Monitoring Reports

The Cherokee Trout Farm at Morgan Mill has submitted all discharge monitoring reports in the past as paper copies. According to Part III section A.1 of the permit, “[s]tarting in January 2017, monitoring data required by this permit shall be submitted on EPA Form 3320-1 Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) forms using the electronic DMR (NetDMR) internet application.”

The inspector discussed the facility’s DMR submittals and agreed to schedule a meeting with Mr. Brown to assist with setting up and using NetDMR to electronically submit future DMRs.

End of Report