

Region 6 Compliance Assurance and Enforcement Division
INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Date(s):	12/13/2023		
Media:	Water		
Regulatory Program(s)	Clean Water Act		
Company Name:	Village of Morse		
Facility Name:	Village of Morse		
Facility Physical Location:	Ferre Canal Rd, LA Hwy 91, 0.7 Mi W of Morse, LA 70559		
(city, state, zip code)	Morse, LA 70559		
Mailing address:	PO Box 750		
(city, state, zip code)	Morse, LA 70559-0750		
County/Parish:	Acadia		
Facility Contact:	Ray Richard	Mayor	
	morse_70559@yahoo.com		
	337-783-7555		
FRS Number:			
Identification/Permit Number:	LA0064572		
Media Number:			
NAICS:			
SIC:	4952		
Personnel participating in inspection:			
Michael Williams	EPA/ 6EN-WMH	Inspector	281-983-2150
Abel Touns, IV	KATS SERVICES & MORE, LLC	Contracted Operator	
EPA Lead Inspector Signature/Date			Digitally signed by MICHAEL WILLIAMS Date: 2024.01.30 10:18:16 -06'00'
	Michael D. Williams		Date
Supervisor Signature/Date	ROBERTO BERNIER		Digitally signed by ROBERTO BERNIER Date: 2024.01.30 11:36:40 -06'00'
	Roberto Bernier		Date

Section I - Introduction

PURPOSE OF THE INSPECTION

EPA Region 6 inspector, Michael Williams, arrived at the Village of Morse Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) at 1:20 pm on December 12, 2023, for an unannounced NPDES wastewater treatment inspection. During the opening conference, I met with Abel Toups, IV, Operator. Mr. Toups was informed that this was an EPA lead compliance evaluation inspection to determine compliance with the facility's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and the Clean Water Act. The scope of the inspection was with permit LA0064572, facility operations, and maintenance under the Clean Water Act. The inspection was conducted under the authority of the NPDES permit program, in accordance with the Federal CWA.

The information presented in this report is based on the materials and information supplied by the Village of Morse representatives, observations made during the inspection, and records and reports maintained by the permittee.

FACILITY DESCRIPTION

The treatment facility is situated about 0.7 miles southwest of the Village of Morse. It comprises a single-cell aeration pond with a submerged pump that recirculates the influent into the air for aeration. The flow from the aeration pond moves into a detention pond through gravity mains before the sprinkler system pumps the water over a 5.1-acre irrigation field, which eventually drains into an open collection ditch. This ditch directs the water into a chlorine contact chamber for disinfection. After disinfection, the wastewater is pumped to the receiving outfall ditch.

Section II- Observations

This inspection revealed the following observations:

The wastewater treatment plant inspection revealed various issues. The Village of Morse implemented a temporary recirculation in the single-cell aeration pond to facilitate aeration and prevent anaerobic conditions. To maintain sufficient capacity and retention time in the detention pond, the village should establish a marker and ensure a minimum 2ft freeboard space. Additionally, the flow in the open channel draining into the chlorine contact chamber may stagnate, leading to algae blooms during summer months, contributing to elevated suspended solids in the effluent.

Records for permit LA0064572 were requested from September 2023 to November 2023, encompassing Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMR), lab analyses of monitored parameters, instrument calibration records, flow records, and Chain of Custodies for collected samples. Abel Toups, IV, the contracted operator since September 2023, mentioned the absence of equipment for pH analysis and a non-functioning flow meter. Flow calculations have been estimated due to the meter being down, and the Village has not electronically submitted DMRs due to a lack of signature authority on file with Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality.

Section III- Areas of Concern

This inspection revealed the following areas of concern:

- The Village of Morse has failed to monitor and maintain monitoring equipment as required. The pH and flow meters are required to be maintained and are necessary to report accurate data. The facility is obligated to continuously record flow daily, and the pH is required to be grabbed and analyzed within 15 minutes once a week.
- The treatment plant in the Village of Morse has fallen short of achieving compliance with the effluent limits outlined in its discharge permit, resulting in significant noncompliance. The root causes include inadequate maintenance and insufficient financial resources, exacerbated by the village's small population of less than 500. While the current operator has implemented process changes leading to improvements, additional resources are crucial to ensure sustained compliance.

Section IV – LIST OF APPENDICES

- Appendix A – Photo

Appendix 1

Photograph Log



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Photograph Log

Photo No. 1

Location: Village of Morse		
City: Morse	County/Parish: Arcadia	State: Louisiana



Aeration Lagoon with Temporary Recirculation



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Photograph Log

Photo No. 2

Location: Village of Morse		
City: Morse	County/Parish: Arcadia	State: Louisiana



Detention Pond



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Photograph Log

Photo No. 3

Location: Village of Morse		
City: Morse	County/Parish: Arcadia	State: Louisiana



Irrigation Sprinklers



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Photograph Log

Photo No. 4

Location: Village of Morse		
City: Morse	County/Parish: Arcadia	State: Louisiana





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Photograph Log

Photo No. 5

Location: Village of Morse		
City: Morse	County/Parish: Arcadia	State: Louisiana



Channel for runoff from field to Contact basin



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Photograph Log

Photo No. 6

Location: Village of Morse		
City: Morse	County/Parish: Arcadia	State: Louisiana



Contact Basin



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Photograph Log

Photo No. 7

Location: Village of Morse		
City: Morse	County/Parish: Arcadia	State: Louisiana

