From: Lowe, Claire (EGLE)
Sent: 8/21/2025 10:29:17 AM
To: "Ronald Schroeder" <rschroeder@operationsservices.com>
Cc: "dpwdirector@bellairemichigan.com" <dpwdirector@bellairemichigan.com>
Subject: RE: Bellaire Wastewater Treatment Facility

Ron,

Thank you for contacting me about what is going on with the Bellaire plant. I see from the DMR submitted for last month that these problems have been going on for a while. Please be aware that the permit does include notification requirements under Part II, Section C.6 if there are effluent violations which may endanger health or the environment. Fortunately, the new UV disinfection system removes some of the concerns about the discharge regarding health. Generally, we would consider pH below 5.5 SU, or a DO discharge 2.0 mg/L or more below the effluent limit to be in significant non-compliance (SNC). If your violations start getting into SNC, please make sure to notify me and we can discuss what actions might be taken to mitigate impact. Is there currently any capacity in the lagoons that would allow the plant to stop discharging if needed?

Claire Lowe
Environmental Quality Analyst
Water Resources Division, Gaylord District Office
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989-330-4639|LoweC9@Michigan.gov
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EGLE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

CLEAN WATER ACT 50 YEARS

From: Ronald Schroeder <rschroeder@operationsservices.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 21, 2025 8:20 AM
To: Lowe, Claire (EGLE) <LoweC9@michigan.gov>
Subject: Bellaire Wastewater Treatment Facility

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Good morning,

My name is Ron Schroeder. I work for Operations Services and in addition to being in charge of The Mancelona Wastewater Treatment Facility, I have been assigned to assist with the Bellaire Facility. As you know, the plant has been undergoing a much

needed upgrade. Unfortunately, sometimes the engineers don't take all of the existing treatment needs into account.

When they took the first lagoon out of service to remove the sludge and make repairs, the process required sending the influent flow into the second lagoon. The problem this creates is that the influent pipe into this lagoon from the influent splitter box is but a few hundred feet from the discharge pipe to the third lagoon or polishing pond. This causes a series of treatment issues. Short circuiting the flow reduces aeration and detention times. In addition, the water in the rest of Lagoon #2 is not being pushed through the process. Of course all of this short circuiting has caused Lagoon # 3 to become a secondary treatment pond and results in algae growth. All of this is causing a negative impact on our permit limitation numbers.

The good news is that Lagoon #1 is scheduled to have the new aeration lines and blower system completed by Sept 2nd. This will allow us to divert the influent into that pond to treat and fill, giving us 41 days to empty and repair Lagoon #2. So, the purpose of this email is to explain any potential permit violations and inform you of the steps we are taking to get the plant back on track.

Thank you for your patience in this matter.

Ron Schroeder-Operations Specialist
Operations Services
810.210.0686