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## Scranton Sewer Authority

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October 20, 2015

Dunmore Borough Council  
Borough of Dunmore  
400 South Blakely Street  
Dunmore PA 18512

Re: Odor Issue 09/24/15 and 09/25/15

Dear Council:

This is in response to your letter of October 12, 2015 whereby Dunmore Borough Council requested information from the Scranton Sewer Authority regarding the odor issue that occurred on September 24, 2015 into the early morning hours of September 25, 2015. Initially, the SSA received a call around 7:00 p.m. on September 24, 2015 of an order complaint coming from a sewer line in the 1900 block of Capouse Avenue. UGI, at this point, had determined that the odor was not natural gas. Within the next two hours or so, the SSA was contacted by DEP and asked to return to the original location and assist DEP in opening manholes and checking nearby Combined Sewer Overflows. The SSA service person was re-dispatched to the site with additional assistance being provided by our CSO/GIS staff person. In this area, samples were taken by DEP and a decision was made to undertake an upstream trace to the general area of Monahan Avenue and Reeves Street.

On the night of September 24<sup>th</sup> and early morning of September 25<sup>th</sup> VOC samples were taken with a PID meter at manholes G376, P255 and P208. Samples of sewage were only taken at G376. The samples of the sewage were taken twice by DEP at the same manhole, once around 10:30 p.m. on September 24<sup>th</sup> and again around 3:30 a.m. on September 25<sup>th</sup>. The VOC reported numbers that evening were 400 PPM at Drinker Place (lower Green Ridge), 160 PPM at D208 (Sleep Inn) and 45 PPM at D255 (Reeves & Monahan). Further sampling took place and DEP gained access to Keystone Sanitary Landfill. At DEP's request, the SSA flushed the line from manhole D255. Additional sampling took place at different manholes and multiple CSOs were checked with a determination that there were not any overflows. This effort by both DEP and the SSA concluded at roughly 4:00 a.m. on the morning of September 25, 2015.

Continued follow-up by both DEP and the SSA occurred during the day on September 25, 2015. An official of DEP, with the assistance of SSA staff collected samples from the primary influent channel. The SSA staff informed the DEP official that the Authority had collected influent, effluent and sludge samples. We are awaiting the laboratory results of these samples. The UVIR samples taken by DEP at the Treatment Plant were similar to diesel fuel. The results of this sample did match samples taken at midnight at manhole G357, but it did not match samples taken that night at the Landfill.

On October 6, 2015 SSA staff met with DEP at the Regional Office in Wilkes Barre. The discussion centered on the events of September 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Ensuing discussion addressed such matters as normal BOD levels entering the Plant; sample evidence of acetone and methyl ethyl ketone (MEK); the smell having characteristics of creosote or strong chemical solvent; additional sampling that did not have similarities to treated wastewater from the Landfill; flow in the line that night compared to normal flow; SSA Standard Operating Procedures and protocols; SSA measuring devices; the visit to the Landfill and discussion with Landfill officials; a prior visit (a few months ago) by DEP to the Landfill and the protocol the SSA was utilizing in its inspection/investigation in an attempt to determine what may have caused the odor event. A request was made by DEP to sample key manholes from Capouse and Drinker to manhole D255.

There was no measurable flow at the Treatment Plant than what would not be considered normal flow. There was not a Plant upset and the Plant was operating within its permit limits. There was an oily brownish material that entered the primary influent channel. Attached is a color picture of the material. Particular attention should be paid to the darker brown material. This is the material tested by DEP on September 25, 2015. The sample of this material and the sample taken at the Landfill did not match. The SSA placed absorbent pigs on this material and upon removal of the absorbers the entire channel was vacuored. As suggested by DEP at the October 6, 2015 meeting, the SSA conducted an interval dye test along the subject line. The results of this dye test are enclosed.

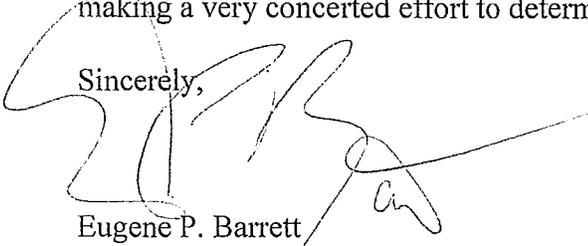
In cooperation with DEP, for the last week or so the SSA has been conducting an inspection of all industrial/commercial facilities that utilize the subject line. Enclosed is a sample of the inspection report along with the entities being inspected. There are twenty commercial/industrial users. Two of these entities, Keystone Sanitary Landfill and Apex Solid Waste Management, are holders of Significant Industrial User Permits (SIU). These permits are issued and monitored by the SSA in accordance with the rules and regulations promulgated by the federal Environmental Protection Agency. On a quarterly basis, the SIU permit holders are required to submit a self-monitoring report. At a minimum, each permit holder is tested annually unless a compliance issue arises as evidenced by the quarterly self-monitoring reports.

In addition to the commercial/industrial users on this line, there are a little over 1,000 structures serviced by the line. The blue shaded area on the attached map identifies the service area. Considering the entire area the SSA, in segments, is televising the main line and laterals to detect any suspect materials.

In cooperation with DEP, the SSA is making every effort possible to determine the source of the odor issue. All of our sampling and tests are undertaken by an outside third party independent laboratory. As I understand it, the DEP has taken its own material testing laboratory in Harrisburg. The SSA's system consists of 315 miles of collection lines, both combined (sanitary and stormwater) and separate sanitary lines and over 7,000 catch basins and manholes. Absent someone being caught in the act, it is virtually impossible for the SSA to prevent the illegal discharge of environmentally harmful material into our system.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and our 32,000 ratepayers, I can assure you we are making a very concerted effort to determine the source of the odor.

Sincerely,



Eugene P. Barrett  
Executive Director

CC: SSA Board of Directors