



Maryland Department of Environment
Water and Science Administration
Compliance Program
1800 Washington Blvd, Suite 420
Baltimore, MD 21230-1719
410- 537-3510, 1-800-633-6101

Inspector: Randy Denny
AI ID: 6191

Site Name: Valley Proteins, Inc. - Linkwood
Facility Address: 5420 Linkwood Road, Linkwood, MD 21835
County: Dorchester County

Start Date/Time: December 20, 2021 11:30AM
End Date /Time: December 21, 2021 6:00PM

Media Type(s): NPDES Industrial Minor Surface Water

Contact(s): Will McEntyre – Corporate Environmental Director
Chris Beldsoe – Plant Manager
Karl Foringer - Superintendent

NPDES Industrial Minor Surface Water

Permit / Approval Numbers: 99-DP-0024
NPDES Numbers: MD0003247
Inspection Reason: Follow-up (Non-Compliance)
Site Status: Active
Compliance Status: Noncompliance
Recommended Action: Refer to Others (See Findings)
Evidence Collected: Photos or Videos Taken, Samples Taken, Visual Observation
Delivery Method: Hand Deliver
Weather: Partly Cloudy

Inspection Findings:

Inspection was conducted as a follow-up to this writers December 16, 2021 inspection. This writer notes that there was no discharge at the Outfall 001 location.

This writer inspected the facility's Outfall 001 stream outfall and confluence of the Tranquaking River on December 20, 2021 and observed visible white solids. Mr. McEntyre stated that discharge from the facility started on Saturday, December 18, 2021 and stopped on Sunday December 19, 2021. He stated that the discharge was stopped due to evaluated ammonia levels in the discharge. Mr. McEntyre stated that he was not aware of any accumulation of solids in the stream outfall or the confluence of the Tranquaking River.

Inspection Date: December 20, 2021
Site Name: Valley Proteins, Inc. - Linkwood
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This writer advised Mr. McEntyre that this writer's December 16, 2021 inspection documented proper cleanup of the December 15, 2021 sludge spill in the stream outfall and Ms. Kennedy's December 17, 2021 inspection documented proper cleanup of the December 15, 2021 sludge spill at the confluence of the Transquaking River. Mr. McEntyre was advised that the accumulation of solids must have been a result of the discharge that occurred at Outfall 001 on the December 18 and 19, 2021. He was then advised by this writer December 20, 2021 to take immediate action to properly remove and dispose of the solids in the facility's stream outfall and confluence of the Transquaking River. This writer notes that Mr. McEntyre then contacted CES, Chesapeake Environmental Services to initiate the cleanup operation. Inspection showed that shortly after Mr. McEntyre contacted CES representatives arrived on site and began to remove the solids from the stream outfall and confluence of the Transquaking River. This writer advised Mr. McEntyre to report the incident to MDE.

Reinspection of the facility on December 21, 2021 showed that the white solids at the confluence of the Transquaking River had been removed. This writer notes that the remaining portion of the white solids in the stream outfall was removed during the inspection. Mr. McEntyre stated that he is currently recirculating the facility's wastewater through the treatment processes in preparation to discharge at the Outfall 001 location.

Inspection at the #1 wastewater lagoon shows that it has about 8 inches of freeboard with the #2 wastewater lagoon having about 10 inches of freeboard. This writer notes that wastewater from the treatment lagoons was being hauled off site by tank truck. Eight of the ten mechanical aerators were in operation at the #1 lagoon. Further inspection of the #2 lagoon shows that the scum layer covers approximately 25 % of the lagoon surface. Inspection around the perimeter of the lagoons did not reveal any offensive odors. Mr. McEntyre is requested to provide the waste hauling manifests for the cleanup at the stream outfall, confluence of the Transquaking and pump out of the lagoons.

Corrective Actions

Mr. Bledsoe is hereby advised to immediately cease any and all unauthorized discharges, including discharges in violation of the Permit. He shall take any or all of the following actions to ensure proper operation of the WWTP including:

1. Immediately begin pumping and hauling all wastewater as necessary in order to maintain 2 ft of freeboard in lagoons #1 and #2;
2. Immediately cease operations as necessary to eliminate generating any additional wastewater until such time that the discharge is in compliance with the permit effluent limits and the facility is able to consistently maintain 2-ft of freeboard;
3. Immediately ensure that a certified operator is at the facility and overseeing the operations at all times when the facility is discharging;

Inspection Date: December 20, 2021
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4. Within ten (10) days, retain the services of a certified engineer to conduct an evaluation of the treatment system to provide improvements/recommendations to the operation of the WWTP to ensure compliance with the permit. Notify the Department of the name and address of the certified engineer. Within sixty (60) days, have the certified engineer complete the evaluation of the WWTP. Provide a final report from the certified operator to the Department within thirty (30) days upon completion of the evaluation;

5. Immediately maximize the operation and maintenance of the wastewater treatment plant to comply with the discharge permit;

6. Perform visual inspections of the facility as necessary to ensure compliance with permit discharging, including walking along the stream outfall for Outfall 001 to the confluence of the discharge with the Transquaking River to identify adverse impacts including excess solids, discoloration, or other evidence of unauthorized discharge. When discharging, these inspections should occur at least hourly and shall be documented and records maintained for review by the Department. The inspection reports shall include the date, time, name of the inspector, and any observations recorded.

Valley Proteins shall notify the Department for all of the following:

1. At least two (2) hours prior to restarting discharging and immediately upon stopping discharging.
2. Immediately upon an unauthorized discharge.
3. Within one (1) hour of starting pumping and hauling operations.

These notifications shall be provided via email to all the following addresses sharon.talley@maryland.gov, andrew.gosden@maryland.gov, paul.ferreri@maryland.gov and randy.denny@maryland.gov.

Failure to comply with any of the actions listed above may result in the Department taking additional actions, including but not limited to issuing an Administrative Order, suspension of the permit, and/or administrative and civil penalties.

Valley Proteins shall notify the Department by 12:00 pm, Wednesday, December 22, 2021 whether the facility has returned to compliance with all permit conditions and how the facility intends to ensure that future operations will comply with discharge limits and the terms of the permit.

NPDES Industrial Minor Surface Water - Inspection Checklist

<i>Inspection Item</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Does the facility have a discharge permit?	No Violations Observed	
Is the discharge permit current?	No Violations Observed	
If the permit is not current, has facility applied for renewal?	No Violations Observed	

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Does the facility operate as authorized by their current permit?	No Violations Observed	
Has the Permittee exceeded the permitted capacity of the WWTP?	No Violations Observed	
Is the number and location of discharge points as described in the discharge permit?	No Violations Observed	
Has permittee submitted correct name and address of receiving waters?	No Violations Observed	
Is the permittee meeting the compliance schedule per permit requirements?	No Violations Observed	
Has the operator or superintendent been certified by the Board in the appropriate classification for the facility?	No Violations Observed	
Are adequate records being maintained for the sampling date, time, and exact location; analysis dates and times; individual performing analysis; and analytical results?	4 - Not Evaluated	
Are adequate records being maintained for the analytical methods/techniques used?	Not Evaluated	
Does the permittee retained a minimum of 3 years worth of monitoring records including raw data and original strip chart recordings; calibration and maintenance records; and reports?	Not Evaluated	
Do lab records reflect that lab and monitoring equipment are being properly calibrated and maintained?	Not Evaluated	
Does the permittee/laboratory use suitable QA/QC procedures and operate a formal quality assurance (QA) program using appropriate controls?	Not Evaluated	
Has the permittee submitted the monitoring results on the proper Discharge Monitoring Report form?	Not Evaluated	
Do the Discharge Monitoring Reports reflect permit conditions?	Not Evaluated	
Has the permittee submitted these results within the allotted time electronically?	Not Evaluated	
Is the facility being properly operated and maintained including: (a) stand-by power or equivalent provisions available, (b) adequate alarm system for power or equipment failure available, (c) all treatments units are in service, .	Out of Compliance	See Findings

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Is sewage sludge managed correctly per permit requirements?	Not Evaluated	
If a by-pass occurred since last inspection, has the permittee submitted notice of the by-pass within the allotted time?	No Violations Observed	
If a non-complying discharge occurred since the last inspection, was the regulatory agency notified within the allotted time?	No Violations Observed	
If applicable, has the permittee complied with all special conditions of their permit?	Not Evaluated	
Have overflows occurred since the last inspection?	No Violations Observed	
Have records of overflows been maintained at the facility for at least five years?	Not Evaluated	
Are flow measuring devices properly installed and operated, calibration frequency of flow meter adequate, flow measurement equipment adequate to handle expected ranges of flow?	Not Evaluated	
Are discharge monitoring points adequate for representative sampling?	No Violations Observed	
Do parameters and sampling frequency meet the minimum requirements?	Not Evaluated	
Does the permittee use the method of sample collection required by the permit?	Not Evaluated	
Are analytical testing procedures used approved by EPA?	Not Evaluated	
If alternate analytical procedures are being used, has proper approval been obtained?	Not Evaluated	
Has the permittee notified the Department of the name and address of the commercial laboratory?	No Violations Observed	
Were discharges observed at the authorized outfalls?	No Violations Observed	See Findings
If discharges were observed, do the discharges or receiving waters have any visible pollutants observed?	Out of Compliance	See Findings
Were discharge samples collected?	1 - Yes	
Does this facility have coverage under a NPDES stormwater discharge permit?	Not Evaluated	
If the permittee has coverage under a NPDES storm water permit, has a storm water pollution prevention plan been developed and implemented as required?	Not Evaluated	
Are the permit conditions being met?	Out of Compliance	See Findings

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Inspector: Randy Denny 12-21-21
Randy, Denny/Date
randy.denny@maryland.gov
410-901-4020

Received by: [Signature] 12/21/21
Signature/Date
Charles Blodgett
Print Name