

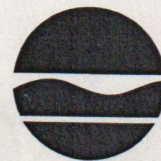
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Environmental Permits, 4th Floor

625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-1750

Phone: (518) 402-9167 • Fax: (518) 402-9168

Website: www.dec.ny.gov



Joe Martens
Commissioner

August 18, 2014

Cathline Cohen
Idle Hour Civic Association
PO Box 279
Oakdale, NY 11769-0279

RE: Facility: Dowling College
SPDES Number: NY 007 7356
DEC ID: 1-4728-00123/00001

Dear Ms. Cohen,

Enclosed is a response to your comments of October 11, 2012 and a copy of the renewed permit for the above facility.

Thank you for your comments. If you have any additional concerns about this permit, please contact William Spitz, Regional Water Engineer for the Region 1 Office of NYS DEC at (631) 444-0419.

Sincerely,

Lindy Sue Czubernat
Environmental Program Specialist

enc.

cc: BWP
RWE Region 1
RPA Region 1

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

Dowling College

SPDES #: NY0077356

DEC #: 1-4728-00128/00004

Background: DEC has reviewed the above referenced SPDES permit renewal application and made a tentative determination to administratively renew the permit under the Environmental Benefit Permit Strategy (EBPS). The draft permit was public noticed on September 12, 2012. The comment period ended on October 12, 2012. Comments were received from Idle Hour Civic Association and are addressed below.

Comment: *The Association states that the plant should never have been allowed to be built and allowed to discharge into such a sensitive location. The Association states (and that it has stated in the past to DEC and Suffolk County Health Department) that this facility has excessive discharges, malfunctions, and overflows that affect areas streams, canals and wetlands. The Association requests that the renewal application be reviewed carefully and not administratively renewed; the permit limits be reduced; the facility inspected and the permit enforced; and suggests alternate discharge locations.*

Response:

The Department and its delegated agent, Suffolk County Health Department, have determined that the administrative renewal of this permit without any changes is appropriate. Any inspections and enforcement actions by DEC or SCHD are independent of this decision to renew this permit.

The Department reviewed the comments about overflows. Regarding the past overflows at this facility - Idle Hour Civic Association's comments have been reviewed in detail. They are without merit. The conditions observed in the parking lot do not depict overflow from the sanitary system recharge beds. To the contrary, they depict storm water backing up in the storm drains as a result of extreme precipitation events. During the rains of 2007, the creek was elevated to a point where the storm drainage system was surcharged into the parking lot (normally, the parking lot drains to the creek). The water in the parking lot did not result from an overflow of the recharge basins. The same conditions occurred in 2012 during Superstorm Sandy. The County has been to the site to verify this information, and they conducted land surveying of the relative elevations of the pertinent infrastructure, to confirm the conditions explained above.