

# **OLIVEHURST PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT**

*Our mission is to provide high quality services to enhance our community's quality of life.*



## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Dennise Burbank James Carpenter John Floe Mary Jane Griego Christopher White

## **GENERAL MANAGER**

John Tillotson

### **SUBJECT: Exceedance of Permit due to illegal dump into The District's collection system on August 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.**

On 08/13/2020 there was three exceedances: First there was a NTU greater than 5 for more than 72 minutes, second the NTU greater than maximum of 10. Last, below the hourly average transmittance of 55%. The NTU exceedances are not a fineable exceedances but the hourly transmittance is. So there is a possibility that there could be a fine for the transmittance exceedance.

On 08/14/2020 there was an exceedances in the NTU maximum of 10. Staff was able to control the substance by diverting to the flow equitation basin and then bring it back through the system to be retreated at a more diluted concentration.

Summary: This was caused by an illegal discharge into OPUD's collection system. Staff investigated the collection system after checking the Plant and could not find the source. This illegal discharge into the District's collection system was different from the one we had in May, which leads the staff to believe that it was from a different source.

The substance is believed to be organic in nature because the reaction in the oxidation ditch was a strain on the dissolved oxygen and the lack of kill to the activated sludge. Samples have been sent to the laboratory for testing.

Changes to be made: First the transmittance alarm has been changed to allow a greater time line for the Operator to respond to the situation before an exceedance might happen. This was the first time the staff has seen this type of illegal discharge that affected the UV transmittance so fast. The illegal discharge stayed in a slug all the way through the Plant. That is what caused the rapid decrease in the UV transmittance and the rapid rise in the NTU. By its appearance, it is possible that it had some type of polymer in it as well.

A S.O.P. is being made up to address this type of situation in the future. The staff is also looking into putting composite samplers at some of the key lift stations for monitoring situations and PH probes at these key stations as well as the Plant's influent. This should give the staff a better chance of recognizing this type of illegal discharge before it goes through the Plant and also help in tracking where they are coming from.

Sincerely,

***Gregory P. Axline***

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