



May 29, 2012

Dear Stakeholders:

This letter is in response to your recent inquiries regarding odors emanating from the Niagara Falls Water Board's (NFWB) Wastewater Treatment Plant. We appreciate your concern and welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter with you.

For your review and additional details, we have enclosed our "Odor Avoidance & Control" information sheet. It generally describes how odors are caused at the treatment plant and what measures the NFWB is implementing to mitigate them.

At present, the NFWB is contending with two issues that are contributing to the odor production: 1.) anaerobic gas-producing bacteria that has become established in the sludge handling train, and 2.) warm weather hydrogen sulfide production in the carbon beds; both of which are described in further detail on the information sheet. Current efforts to address this problem are focused on an increase in the use of odor destroying chemicals in our treatment process and the reestablishment of satisfactory primary settling and sludge thickening, which will expedite processing of wastewater and reduce its odor-forming potential.

Also contributing to the recent odor problem is the fact that sedimentation basin #5 is out of service due to the replacement of sludge collection equipment. We currently have NFWB staff working to clean this basin and have hired a professional contractor to assist and expedite the sludge removal. We anticipate returning the basin to service in early June 2012. The repair work to basin #5 is being coordinated with our ongoing wastewater treatment plant rehabilitation program. We recently began construction on Phase 2A at the plant, which includes \$1.3 million in infrastructure upgrades, and future projects are in the planning stage.

We thank you for informing us of your concerns and we hope this information provides you a better understanding of this matter. We assure you that the NFWB will continue to work aggressively and do all in its control to further reduce odor generation at the treatment plant to the fullest extent possible.

Sincerely,  
NIAGARA FALLS WATER BOARD

Paul J. Drof  
Executive Director