



THE QUALITY CHICKEN PEOPLE

ALLEN FAMILY FOODS, INC.

P.O. BOX 63

HARBESON, DE 19951

302/684-1640 FAX: 302/684-1638

April 27, 2000

Mr. Allen McCloskey
Delaware Department of Natural Resources
and Environmental Control
Division of Water Resources
89 Kings Highway
Dover, Delaware 19903

SUBJECT: DISCHARGE 001

Dear Allen:

This letter is to follow up what took place Tuesday April 25, 2000. At approximately 5:50 am the operator on duty noticed solids in the chlorine contact chamber and solids being discharged through the flume, he immediately opened the drain in the chamber and stopped the flow. At this time we shut the system down to investigate the problem. We inspected the discharge area and there were solids which had settled to the bottom. The amount of solids indicated that we possibly had discharge for thirty minutes. Due to the short duration of discharge it was determined that there was no adverse impact to the stream. At approximately 7:50 am I called your office and informed you of the situation. At 8:45 you arrived at the plant to investigate, as we had discussed that day the sludge blanket in the clarifier had risen to the top causing excess solids to enter the chlorine chamber. We contacted Clean Delaware Inc. and had a vacuum truck sent over to remove the solids that had settled around the discharge area. I believe that the cause of this was due to denitrification in the sludge blanket which created enough gas to float the sludge to the top. To minimize this from happening in the future we have set up operators around the clock while we are discharging, until we can set up the turbidity meter on the final effluent to automatically shut the system down when the turbidity gets high.

At the time of the occurrence we took a grab sample for the lab, and also took composite samples the rest of the week. When we receive the results of these samples from Envirocorp, I will contact you again. Thanks for your help in this matter, should you have any questions please call me.

Sincerely,

M. Thomas Brinson
Environmental Manager

mtb

cc: Buck Kornemann, Plant Manager
Larry Enders, Director of Technical Services