



CITY OF TAMPA

Internal Audit Department

Cynthia D. Miller

January 29, 2004

Honorable Pam Iorio
Mayor, City of Tampa
1 City Hall Plaza
Tampa, Florida

RE: Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant - Operations, Audit 04-22

Dear Mayor Iorio:

The Howard F. Curren Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant (AWTP) is responsible for the collection, treatment and disposal of more than “60 million gallons of wastewater per day from over 100,000 customers in Tampa and its immediate suburbs.” The treatment requires the “careful removal of pollutants and pathogens from wastewater in a manner consistent with Federal, state and local regulations so that the end product can be returned to the environment for natural recycling.” AWTP is regulated through its Title V Air Operation Permit issued by the Department of Environmental Protection through the Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission; and its Domestic Wastewater Operating Permit issued by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The Air permit expires September 2005; the Wastewater permit is currently in the re-application phase and has an expiration of July 2004. Reporting requirements vary depending on the type of permit. Each permit has numerous special conditions to ensure that AWTP operations are safe, as well as that the end product is environmentally safe.

Based on the results of the preliminary survey stage of our audit we decided that performing an audit in compliance with generally accepted government auditing standards would not be necessary. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to afford a reasonable basis for our judgments and conclusions regarding the organization, program, activity or function under audit. An audit also includes assessments of applicable internal controls and compliance with requirements of laws and regulations when necessary to satisfy the audit objectives.

Results of the Preliminary Survey

- The Division’s performance appears to be in compliance with the regulatory conditions specified in both environmental permits. This was affirmed by the Plant’s assigned Department of Environmental Protection Compliance Officer.

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- The process for data collection, regulatory testing of the collected samples, input of the test results and subsequent transmission to the monitoring agencies was deemed accurate and reliable.

We thank the management and staff of the Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant for their cooperation and assistance during this audit. We will consider this report to be final unless directed to continue our audit.

Sincerely,

Cynthia D. Miller
Director of Internal Audit

cc: Ralph L. Metcalf, Wastewater Director
Dave Pickard, Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant Manager
Steve Daignault, Administrator of Public Works and Utilities Services