

Fratello & Amico, Inc.

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July 25, 2025

Ms. Julie Pape
Project Coordinator
Tidewater, Inc.
6625 Selnick Drive, Ste A
Elkridge, MD 21075

RE: WV009, Report of Oil Water Separator Cleaning and Preventative Maintenance Inspection, AMSA 102(G), 6 Armory Rd., Clarksburg, WV 26301

Dear Ms. Pape,

We are pleased to submit the following report regarding services performed at the above facility.

Background: We originally visited this facility on Tuesday, December 6th, 2011, and inspected and measured the sludge accumulation within the washrack oil water separator sedimentation and separation tank. Sludge measured an average of 17" throughout the primary concrete tank, no measurable sludge was detected within the secondary tank. A proposal was prepared for the dewatering of the primary sludge tank and containerization of the heavy oily bottom sludge into fifty five gallon drums for future waste determination and disposal via DRMO, and was subsequently approved.

We arrived at the center on Tuesday, December 20th, 2011 equipped to clean the separator. Free oil was removed from the surface and a sump pump was encased in a filter and utilized to transfer the water portion of the tank to the secondary chamber of the separator. After dewatering the sludge, the proposed work area was covered with a 6-mil layer of plastic sheeting and a hydraulic excavator was utilized to excavate the majority of the heavy sludge from the tank and transfer to steel 17-H drums.

Once the heavy sludge was removed, a laborer manually scraped the remaining portions of the concrete tank and accumulated the scrapings into steel drums. The drums were removed from the tank and sealed. A total of fifteen drums of sludge were generated

Upon mobilization to the jobsite, we discovered the second concrete tank was covered with a layer of free oil. The weir at the outfall end of the second tank was not in place due to a failure of the steel frame which holds the wood planks that make up the weir. The result was that free oil would naturally flow directly to the tank discharge and into the sanitary sewer.

Facility personnel indicate that they are in the process of changing to a quick-release type of surfactant/degreasing agent and the oil in the second tank is an anomaly. We recommend draining and repairing the weir frame or at least the installation of a PVC Tee to prevent the unintended release of free oil to the sanitary sewer.

We arrived at the facility on Wednesday, February 22, 2012 to repair the weir. We installed a filtered submersible pump to dewater the chamber containing the weir. Next we removed and cleaned the wooden baffles and realigned the steel weir frame. We reattached the steel frame with zinc coated steel wedge anchors installed 5" within the 8" reinforced concrete walls. We then reassembled the weir and refilled the Oil Water Separator with fresh water.

On Wednesday, May 1, 2013, an electrician working on a power issue at this facility had identified the problem as a short circuit within the sump pit which collects washwater from the work bays and pumps it into the OWS.

We submitted a proposal to drain the sump, transferring the waste to the oil water separator and then test the sump pump and power supply. If the sump pump is the issue, we will replace; however, if the electrical supply is the cause we will immediately inform the facility personnel to have that issue addressed by the facility electrician.

We arrived at the center on the morning of Tuesday, May 7, 2013, and the sump pit was opened and inspected from above. We immediately noticed that the top of the pedestal pump had water inside of the guard, which obviously is a problem.

The liquid waste was pumped to the Oil Water Separator and the pit was entered by personnel equipped with appropriate PPE. The bottom of the precast concrete sump is uneven, four steel hooks protrude from the floor and the center is recessed. We installed eight cinder blocks to provide a safe and stable work area. The pump was inspected, electrical connections cleaned and tested and the pump power was reset but immediately tripped the circuit breaker again.

Next, we disconnected the wiring connections from the pump and again attempted a circuit reset – which was successful. Now that we have isolated the problem to the pump, we normally try to identify the cause of the problem.

Sump pits are unfriendly locations for electro-mechanical equipment with the unavoidable high humidity and the risk of submersion of all wiring and equipment ever present. Add to that, the composition of the liquid waste being pumped and potential issues increase exponentially.

Facility personnel report that they have been trying to isolate the electrical issue for more than a year. They also stated that the material which is conveyed to the sump pit originates at the far end of the shop and drains through floor grates. The waste reportedly is water, floor cleaner, oils, small debris and speedy-dri (a clay absorbant). Clay-based absorbants are notorious for clogging pumps in anything but ultra-high velocity wastewater systems. The sump pit flow at this facility is anything but high-velocity.

Once we removed the pump from the pit, we measured approximately 6" of sludge (clay) on top of the intake screen to the pump. The pump which was installed in March 2009 had apparently burned out in early 2012 due in part to liquid intrusion to the electric motor and in part I am sure to the heavy sludge.

We decided that a submersible cast iron pump would be better suited for the environment and installation of the pump should include a buffer or dam to limit the amount of heavy sludge that the pump would be subjected to during regular operations and perhaps more importantly during periods of inactivity.

A weighted five gallon bucket was placed in the bottom of the sump pit, the sump pump was installed within the bucket and connected to the PVC effluent piping with a Fernco coupling. Pump and float were energized and tested. Site was cleaned and the project was demobilized.

We again visited the facility in July of 2017 and cleaned the separators which resulted in the generation of thirteen drums of sludge.

April 16, 2020, in the beginning of Covid, we again serviced the OWS, which resulted in the generation of eight 55-gallons drums of sludge which were removed by DRMO.

On Friday, March 7, 2025, we were contacted by Tidewater, the regional PM contractor regarding the servicing of seven of the Oil Water Separators in the region. A proposal was prepared and submitted for review, and was subsequently approved.

As it had been almost five years since the last service, we visited each facility the week of May 6th in order to gauge the accumulation of sludge. Four sites were found to have light accumulations and were scheduled for the week of May 12th, the other three have heavy accumulations and were scheduled for cleaning in summer.

Site Service Performed: We mobilized to the facility on Monday, May 5, 2025 and the two chambers were inspected.

We returned on Wednesday and Thursday, July 16 & 17, 2025 to clean the GI and OWS. Surface oil was absorbed and removed and the water phase was processed through the unit and the bottom sludge was evacuated and containerized. Eight 55-gallon drums of OWS sludge were generated during the cleaning.

Conclusions and Recommendations: Multiple drains, interior and exterior, discharge to this GI/OWS. It is a very large system, two concrete tanks measuring 6' x 12' x 6' deep each. It is uncovered and receives stormwater which is a CWA violation.

This GI/OWS appears to be operating properly, without any known functional issues.

Attachment: Photographs of the Service

Page Description

4	Oil Water Separator Area
5	Separator Uncovered
6	Primary Separator Dewatered
7	Sludge being Evacuated
8	Secondary Chamber Dewatered
9	Refilled and Back in Service

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our services to your facility. If you have any questions, please feel free to call at any time.

Sincerely,

Fratello and Amico, Inc.

Raymond B. Chain, III

Raymond B. Chain, III
President











