Fw: Higley Testing information

1 message

Terry Menke <tmenke@cityofdyersville.com> Thu, Apr 30, 2026 at 8:51 AM
To: "Smith, Michele" <michele.smith@dnr.iowa.gov>

Terry Menke
Crewmember
City of Dyersville, Iowa
340 1st Avenue East | Dyersville, IA 52040
563-875-7724 office | 563-590-3115 cell
tmenke@cityofdyersville.com
www.cityofdyersville.com

From: Terry Menke <tmenke@cityofdyersville.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2026 2:34 PM
To: Faas, Julie <julie.faas@dnr.iowa.gov>
Cc: Joe Reicher <jreicher@cityofdyersville.com>; Tim Herbers <therbers@cityofdyersville.com>; John Wandsnider <jwandsnider@cityofdyersville.com>
Subject: Higley Testing information

Good Morning Julie.
~We believe we are able to help answer questions about the data collection of possible pollutants from Higley Inc. On April 2nd 2026 we collected a 24-hour composite sample from a manhole directly downstream from Higley Inc. Higley Inc is the only wastewater contributor on this main we collected from. There are no other residential or industrial contributors. I have attached our camera inspection report to confirm this. Again, this sample only contains wastewater from Higley Inc. From this sample, we collected data also included in an attached file from Microbac Labritories.

~Grab sampling and in-house data collection began and has continued since September 16th, 2025. This data was collected from the manhole described above. When the grab samples were collected, we would visually inspect the sample and test for PH with a simple Litmus paper test.

Sept 16 2025- Blue Dye Discharge that affected our effluent.
Sept 18 2025- significant foam.
Dec 3 2025- Purple influent traced back to Higley manhole with significant foam.
Dec 23 2025- Large amounts of foam with a PH litmus test of 13 from Higley Manhole.
April 23 2026- Large amounts of foam.
April 28 2026- Large foam event at the WWTP
There are incidents documented that include additional foaming at the Headworks of the WWTP but there was no foam visually inspected from the Higley manhole at the time of these specific incidents. We estimate that any waste coming from Higley Inc. takes approximately 3-4 days to enter the Plant Headworks. This was estimated using lift station pump run-times, height of water in the wet well before and after running the pump, and pipe diameter and length. The Force main leaving the lift station is just over a mile long. After this force main, is a gravity main that runs another mile directly into the plant headworks. With a lower flow seen at this lift station, it takes time from when a discharge occurred, to the time it is entering our plant.

~Because of these incidents occurring more frequently, we have increased efforts to stay ahead of such events. We directed more time towards inspecting the manhole described above and inspecting the lift station tied in with Higley Inc. This effort is to prepare for any changes needed at the plant and to document any significantly toxic discharges from Higley Inc. We have increased inspection and cleaning of all data collection probes at the plant as the foam will cause disruptions to the ultra-sonic sensor. (This technology reads our influent flow.) We have had an E-coli sample denied by the lab as any color in the water disrupts their testing procedures. In some of these incidents, our effluent flow needed to be directed to our Equalization Basin. This was done in fear of possibly inadequate sludge and waste removal from our clarifiers as the particles were unable to settle out.

~ Another possible, I stress possible, as this is yet to be determined or proven, is that since the middle of February 2026 we have seen an increase to our Nitrogen Ammonia levels. So high in fact, that it sent our facility out of compliance for a period of time. Recently we have seen our Ammonia levels decrease within our permit parameters. We have been researching and gathering information to determine if there could be a relation to our high Ammonia levels and an increase in foaming events in the past few months. At this time, we have not gathered significant data to confirm this, but this is still a consideration.

~ I have also attached the Safety Data Sheets that were given to us by Josh Moore from Higley Inc when an incident occurred.

~ If you have any other follow up questions or are in need of any additional information, please let me know.

Thank you.

Terry Menke
Crewmember
City of Dyersville, Iowa
340 1st Avenue East | Dyersville, IA 52040
563-875-7724 office | 563-590-3115 cell
tmenke@cityofdyersville.com
www.cityofdyersville.com

5 attachments

- **Higley Inc, Industrial Parkway Sample results.pdf** 409K
- **Sewer 621 Higley Tap at 6.8ft.pdf** 178K
- **Clean_Revolution_ SDS 1.pdf** 115K
- **Grade & Yield SDS 01-01-23.pdf** 308K
- **Grade-Yield-QD-SDS-01-01-2023.pdf** 316K