



ARKANSAS  
Department of Environmental Quality

March 12 2009

Gary Smith, Utilities Director  
City of Van Buren  
P.O. Drawer 1269  
Van Buren, AR 72956

AFIN: 17-00062

NPDES Permit No.: AR0021482

Dear Mr. Smith:

On March 10, 2009, I performed a recon inspection on a sanitary sewer overflow of the collection system at 302 Scott Street in response to complaint. This was the second incident at the same location within the last 7 days. This inspection was performed in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Clean Water Act, the Arkansas Water and Air Pollution Control Act, and the regulations promulgated thereunder. The inspection revealed the following violations:

- 1. There was evidence to confirm that an overflow of raw sewage had occurred prior to my inspection date. Mr. Steve Dufresne, with the City of Van Buren Utilities Department, reported that the overflow occurred on March 6, 2009. An on-going problem with the transducer was again determined to be the cause of the pump failure at the Fourth Street pump station. Mr. Dufresne provided me a copy of the sanitary sewer overflow report which was submitted to the ADEQ Enforcement Branch.**
- 2. During this inspection, I observed a sewer relief overflow pipe in the side bank of the ditch. This overflow pipe appeared to be cast iron and was approximately eight inches in diameter. All discharges would flow directly into the ditch. This pipe allows for the City of Van Buren to discharge untreated effluent to the waters of the State which is a violation of the permit. This sewer relief overflow pipe and any others located throughout the City must be removed.**

The above items require your immediate attention. Please submit a written response to these findings to Cindy Garner, Technical Assistance Manager with the Water Division Enforcement Branch at the following address:

Water Division Enforcement Branch  
Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality  
5301 Northshore Drive  
North Little Rock, AR 72118-5317

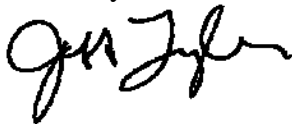
Smith, City of Van Buren  
March 12, 2009  
Page 2

In your response, please provide detailed information describing the course of action taken to correct these items. The corrective action should be completed as soon as possible, and the written response is due by April 2, 2009.

For additional information you may contact the enforcement branch by telephone at 501-682-0639 or by fax at 501-682-0910.

If I can be of any assistance, please contact me at 479-452-4822 ext. 11

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Tyler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

Jeff Tyler  
District 4 Field Inspector  
Water Division

cc: Water Division Enforcement Branch  
Water Division Permits Branch



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Washington, D.C. 20460

## NPDES Compliance Inspection Report

Form Approved  
OMB No. 2040-0003

### Section A: National Data System Coding

Transaction Code	NPDES	Yr/Mo/Day	Inspec. Type	Inspector	Fac. Type
1 <b>N</b> 2 <b>5</b> 3 <b>A R 0 0 2 1 4 8 2</b> 11 12 <b>0 9 0 3 1 0</b> 17 18 <b>R</b> 19 <b>S</b> 20 <b>1</b>	Remarks				
Inspection Work Days		Facility Evaluation Rating		BI QA -----Reserved-----	
67 <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> 69		70 <b>N</b>		71 <b>N</b> 72 <b>N</b> 73 <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> 74 75 <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> 80	

### Section B: Facility Data

Name and Location of Facility Inspected ( <i>For industrial users discharging to POTW, also include POTW name and NPDES permit number</i> ) <b>City of Van Buren POTW-South Plant</b> <b>1401 Port Road</b> <b>Van Buren, AR 72956</b>	Entry Time/Date <b>0935 / March 10, 2009</b>	Permit Effective Date <b>March 1, 2009</b>
Name(s) of On-Site Representative(s)/Title(s)/Phone and Fax Number(s) <b>Steve Dufresne / Utilities Supervisor / 479-474-5067/ cell / 479-459-2234</b>	Other Facility Data <b>Manhole Coordinates:</b> <b>N 35°25'44"</b> <b>W 94° 21'00"</b>	
Name, Address of Responsible Official/Title/Phone and Fax Number <b>Gary Smith/ Utilities Director / 479-474-5067 / fax / 479-471-8969</b> <b>P.O. Drawer 1269</b> <b>Van Buren, AR 72956</b>	Contacted Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

### Section C: Areas Evaluated During Inspection

(S = Satisfactory, M = Marginal, U = Unsatisfactory, N = Not Evaluated)

N	Permit	N	Flow Measurement	N	Operations & Maintenance	N	Sampling
N	Records/Reports	N	Self-Monitoring Program	N	Sludge Handling/Disposal	N	Pollution Prevention
N	Facility Site Review	N	Compliance Schedules	N	Pretreatment	N	Multimedia
N	Effluent/Receiving Waters	N	Laboratory	N	Storm Water	U	Sanitary Sewer Overflow

### Section D: Summary of Findings/Comments (Attach additional sheets if necessary)

A sanitary sewer overflow inspection was conducted in response to a complaint. This is the second complaint at the same location in less than 7 days. Complainant advised that he observed sewage in the ditch located adjacent to his business at 302 Scott Street in Van Buren on the evening of March 6, 2009. On March 9, 2009, I was contacted by Steve Duresne with the City of Van Buren Utilities Department. Mr. Dufresne advised that a second overflow had occurred on the 6<sup>th</sup> and on-going problems with the transducer had caused the pump to fail. He also provided me a copy of the sanitary sewer overflow report which had been submitted to the Department.

On March 10, 2009, I investigated the location to determine if clean up efforts had taken place. There was evidence of lime that had been applied in the ditch. During the inspection, I observed a sewer relief overflow pipe in the ditch. It was located approximately 25-30 feet from the manhole. I contacted Steve Dufresne and discussed the overflow pipe. I advised that it was considered to be an intentional discharge of untreated effluent and was in violation of the permit. I also advised that the pipe and other sewer relief pipes should be capped or removed.

Name(s) and Signature(s) of Inspector(s) Jeff Tyler	Agency/Office/Telephone/Fax ADEQ/ Fort Smith/ 479-452-4822/ 479-452-4827	Date March 12, 2009
Signature of Reviewer	Agency/Office/Phone and Fax Numbers	Date

**Water Division NPDES Photographic Evidence Sheet**

**Location:** Two blocks north of 302 Scott Street in Van Buren

**Photographer:** Jeff Tyler      **Witness:** None

**Photo #** 1    **Of** 4      **Date:** 03-10-09    **Time:** 0949

**Description:** Ditch which had been impacted by the sewer overflow with evidence of lime.



**Photographer:** Jeff Tyler      **Witness:** None

**Photo #** 2    **Of** 4      **Date:** 03-10-09    **Time:** 0949

**Description:** Manhole located approximately 25-35 feet from ditch.



**Water Division NPDES Photographic Evidence Sheet**

**Location:** Two blocks north of Scott Street

**Photographer:** Jeff Tyler **Witness:** None

**Photo #** 3 **Of** 4 **Date:** 03-10-09 **Time:** 0958

**Description:** Sewer relief overflow pipe located in ditch directly below the manhole.



**Photographer:** Jeff Tyler **Witness:** None

**Photo #** 4 **Of** 4 **Date:** 03-10-09 **Time:** 0958

**Description:** Sewer relief overflow pipe located in ditch.



# VAN BUREN MUNICIPAL UTILITIES

“Providing Water, Sewer, and Sanitation Services”

2806 Bryan Road / P.O. Drawer 1269

Van Buren, Arkansas 72957

479-474-5067 / Fax 479-471-8969



March 31, 2009

Cindy Garner, Technical Assistance Manager  
Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality  
Water Division Enforcement Branch  
5301 Northshore Drive  
North Little Rock, Arkansas 72218-5317

Re: AFIN: 17-00062 NPDES Permit No. AR0021482

Response to NPDES Compliance Inspection Reports dated March 9, 2009 and March 12, 2009, by Mr. Jeff Tyler pertaining to two SSO's occurring up gradient of 302 Scott Street in Van Buren.

Dear Ms. Garner:

Violation 1. The Sanitary sewer overflows which occurred up gradient of 302 Scott Street on March 1<sup>st</sup> and March 6<sup>th</sup> of 2009 were both caused by a transducer malfunction in the new 4<sup>th</sup> Street Pump Station. The pump station was designed with a pressure transducer in a stilling well, which sends a wet well level signal to the pump controls. It was discovered that the transducer orifices were stopping up with grease, and sending an incorrect signal to the pump control unit; therefore the pumps were not starting and the high level alarm was not functioning. (The control unit was receiving a signal showing only six feet of water in the wet well)

Both SSO occurrences were reported to the ADEQ as required by the NPDES Permit.

On Saturday March 7, 2009, the transducer was removed from the stilling well and placed into the middle of the wet well to prevent grease buildup, and is being cleaned periodically, as of today; we have not had any further problems.

After discussion with Hawkins – Weir Engineers, Inc., it was determined that we should; replace the transducer with a model which has a larger sensor surface, not place the transducer back into the stilling well set up, and install a float sensor as a back up to the transducer. A construction change order has been issued; the parts have all been received and are scheduled to be installed on Monday April 6, 2009 under the current contract with Van Horn Construction.

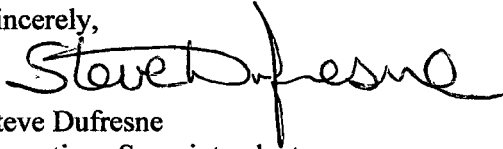
Continued on page 2

March 31, 2009, Continued

Violation 2. On March 13, 2009, the overflow relief pipe in the referenced manhole was sealed with concrete from the inside and outside of the manhole.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 479-474-5067.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Dufresne". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "S" and a long, trailing flourish at the end.

Steve Dufresne  
Operations Superintendent

Cc: Correspondence file  
Jeff Tyler, District 4 Field Inspector, Water Division

**VAN BUREN MUNICIPAL UTILITIES**

*Providing Water, Sewer and Solid Waste Services*

2806 Bryan Road

P.O. DRAWER 1269

VAN BUREN, ARKANSAS 72957

FORT SMITH AR 729



01 APR 2009

**Recycle**

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Cindy Garner, Technical Assistance Manager  
Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality  
Water Division Enforcement Branch  
5301 Northshore Drive  
North Little Rock, Arkansas 72218-5317

722185317

