

Taylor, Bailey

Subject: FW: Notice of Anticipated Non-Compliance

From: Steve Dufresne [<mailto:steve@vbmu.org>]

Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 2:05 PM

To: Yates, Adam

Cc: grayd@adeq.state.ar.us; Kim Redo; Darel Manus; James Dunn; Joe Hurst

Subject: Notice of Anticipated Non-Compliance

Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
Via email - May 29, 2019

Re: Notice of Anticipated Noncompliance

NPDES PERMIT No. Main (South) WWTP AR0021482, Lee Creek Industrial Park (Bekaert) WWTP AR0040967, Lee Creek Industrial Park (Bekaert) WWTP AR0037567

Please be advised, due to extreme flooding with potential of coming rain and the expectation of increased flooding along the Arkansas River; the City of Van Buren Municipal Utilities is experiencing issues at the above permitted Waste Water Treatment Plants including complete submergence, partial submergence, loss of partial controls, and loss of the ability to access facilities as summarized below.

Main (South) WWTP AR0021482- currently operating with partial works - at predicted flood stage the lagoon (Aeration/EQ/Sludge Holding Basin) will be extremely close to submergence - crews are working this morning to sandbag low spots and the main PLC Control room in an effort to secure. Currently, due to flooded electrical controls and potential submergence of critical components the following components are offline: Air Blowers, Return Activated Sludge Pumps, UV Disinfection System – also the Sampling station is completely inaccessible – the flood pump is still working to push effluent out into river, but of course the river is covering the effluent station. Anticipated return to service of components is unknown at this time, pending crest of river, further damage, receding floodwaters. In an effort to mitigate the potential discharge of partially treated waste water into the river, we have requested that our major industrial users including, Tyson Foods, Simmons Prepared Foods, and Tate & Lyle America, Inc. cease discharge beginning Wednesday 29, 2019 until further notice.

Each industry has verbally indicated compliance but has requested that the ADEQ confirm or dispute the validity of the request, and has also requested to be granted an exception due to the circumstances. Please respond as soon as possible with comments, advice, or opinions so that I may advise them.

Lee Creek Industrial Park (Bekaert) WWTP AR0037567 - main power was disconnected on Friday evening, May 24th, - plant is submerged. Bekaert and Arkansas Welcome Center were notified to close restrooms and cease discharge to the plant.

North WWTP AR0040967- due to the flooded low water bridges on Peevyhouse Road and Wellnitz Drive the plant is not accessible. The plant itself should not be flooded at predicted flood stage, we just cannot get to it - one of our operators was able to get some good drone pictures of the facility yesterday evening, Monday May 27th, plant looks good for now. The main concern is the Peevyhouse Pumping Station and the interceptor line along the creek from Woodwind Way to Peevyhouse Road.

Due to submerged manholes along the creek the pumps at Peevyhouse have been running continuously since around Friday May 24th - the station is holding a wet well level art around 13' to 14 feet - the station is not easily accessible - on Sunday we had to wade in to replace a blown fuse in one of the panels, the pumps are under a lot of stress - with predicted rainfalls we are watching this system closely – we will not be able to collect samples until the plant is accessible.

Thank you,

Steve Dufresne
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WWT Sampling Station
07-843-843
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AQUASTORE
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