

Thomas Harrington (adpce.ad)

From: James Boston <JBoston@decatur.us>
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2023 9:31 PM
To: Thomas Harrington (adpce.ad)
Cc: Richard Healey (adpce.ad); Leslie Allen-Daniel (adpce.ad)
Subject: RE: Overflow. Permit number AR0022292
Attachments: WWTP Rainfall Overflow

Mr. Harrington,

This follow up took some time to get to you. I will describe what happened and where we are now. Between the ice storm melt and the rainfall we had last week, we just simply could not treat what was coming at us from all sources. Kind of a perfect storm of ground getting wet, then raining hard with no where for the water to go except finding a way into the sewer system and coming to the wastewater treatment plant.

With the membrane plant that we have, even though we could not get all the water into the plant, or contain our aeration basins from overflowing for a while. The water going out of the plant through the UV system and effluent flume, was will in compliance with our permit. But the water overflowing the influent lift station, and the aeration basin overflow for a while, was not in compliance with our permit, it was however screened through our primary screen that did hold up except for a short time, an hour or so one day that it overflowed.

Not much to say except we did our best to keep our 3 trains running the same, we would overflow then stop, this continued for the times I reported until levels fell to treatable levels. Our equalization pond filled pretty quickly, so it hurt us after it got full, and we had to try and treat all the water coming at us. Over the weekend we did catch up, and was able to get the equalization pond back to a level that should help us with the next rain event which may be tomorrow 2/22/23.

One thing we have been fortunate about is having more effluent capacity than we are permitted for, until now, large rainfall events were much easier before this event. We are able to get our permitted capacity out currently, but that is about it. The manufacture of the equipment that is struggling, will be on site next week to help us figure out why we cannot discharge more water.

I have an environmental company on standby to get our grounds cleaned back up. I need the rain to let up, and dry up some, and get the plant capacity fixed. Once the grounds dry I will get the company onsite to do the cleanup. If we overflow anymore I will report it, right now we are looking ok, I am working nights to ensure we have more oversight until the repairs are made.

If you have any questions please let me know. You can reach me on my cell late afternoon and evenings. If you can't open the pictures let me know and I will try again to get them into a PDF format.

Respectfully,

James Boston
Public Works Manger
City of Decatur
479-212-0726

From: Thomas Harrington (adpce.ad) <Thomas.Harrington@adeq.state.ar.us>

Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 4:05 PM

To: James Boston <JBoston@decatuar.us>

Cc: Richard Healey (adpce.ad) <Richard.Healey@adeq.state.ar.us>; Leslie Allen-Daniel (adpce.ad) <Leslie.Allen-Daniel@adeq.state.ar.us>

Subject: Overflow

Mr. Boston,

Thank you for taking time to talk with me. As we discussed please send me a description of what happened, how much and when the overflow at the plant was stopped. If you have any photographs please send them as well. I know that you stated that you will be uploading this to the SSO Database as well. If there is any other information regarding this overflow please include it as well.

Thank you,

Thomas Harrington | Enforcement Analysts

Division of Environmental Quality | **Office of Water Quality**

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