

310 Maple Avenue • Box 247

Phone: (479) 752-3912

Office of Water Quality Inspection Branch
Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
5301 Northshore Drive
North Little Rock AR 72118-5317

RE: City of Decatur WWTP Inspection
AFIN: 04-00052 Permit Number AR0022292

Mr. Gavin Grey,

Below is our response to Mr. Garrett Grimes inspection of our WWTP on January 14, 2020. At the time of the inspection, we had been operating our retrofitted facility for about seven months. We hope that you will work with us on some of the responses below, it is very hard to get contractors and even engineering companies to focus on our needs from them, at this time because of the 2020 Virus Pandemic. But we take Mr. Grimes violations seriously and will move ahead immediately on what we can, and as soon as we can with work that needs to be done by outside sources.

1. The first inspection note pertained to the lift station on Grant street with grease accumulation on the top of the water surface. We have talked about solutions since the inspection internally. We are going to continue using the aerator but in addition we are going to start changing the station over to a pump that we feel like will do a much better job grinding the debris and also provide some mixing to the station. The station has two pumps and this week we are going to install a Meyers brand pump that we think will do a much better job with what I mentioned above. We are purchasing the pump from Jack Tyler Engineering. We are also going to use a lift station degreaser that we hope will assist in keeping the grease from forming as bad. We try to have all our stations vacuumed once a year usually in August. We believe these above efforts will lead to a lift station with less floating debris. This is our busiest lift station in town.
2. Next was our scrap metal pile, we will contact a scrap metal recycling company and get this removed. We had some scrap metal left over from the plant expansion. We will try to get this removed as soon as possible. The company we have used in the past to set a dumpster for us to fill has not answered, apparently closed because of the Pandemic.
3. The screening container we get from the waste service is a problem we will try and resolve as soon as possible. These rags are a huge expensive problem that I believe most wastewater plants are learning to deal with. I have a price from a contractor to put a pad with a drain that goes back into the head of the plant. A roof may be a challenge because of the height it would need to be, and cost. But a pad with a drain I will get approved hopefully on May 11th at the first council meeting we have had since the Pandemic. If approved I will get this done as soon as

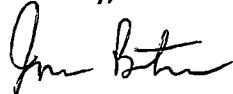
possible. In the mean time the waste service is going to provide a liner for the dumpster, each time it is changed out.

The last part of the inspection report contained the items found on the reports pulled from the previous DMR's. I can respond to the some of them but because of the time I have had with the report I will have to work on some of the items outside this response. I should be able to complete them the week of May 6th and I will do a follow up response to let you know that they were corrected. Mr. Grimes some of these items were just mistakes I have made: but please keep in mind that some of these items change from inspector to inspector on what they want. It would just be a lot easier on the end of a month, get me in a lot less situations or trouble if we did not have to roll numbers into the next month. This has always been confusing to ADEQ and especially me trying to do the report. Not faulting anybody, just the way it is, so I will do my best to correct what you found. I also know this would mess up one week of 7-day average if it happened to be the high week.

4. Part I b. I did report this as the high number, my mistake, on a previous permit Nitrate-Nitrate poundage was reported as the high or instantaneous high also, like the high day is now.
5. Part III a. The sludge holding pond is about to be worked on. We have hired AO3 a company in Arkansas to help us reduce the sludge volume by aeration and adding bacteria to the sludge blanket. Clear water from the pond surface will be processed back through the WWTP with a pump that was bought from Jack Tyler Engineering and should be here the week of May 11th.
6. Part III a. As talked about above I will have to correct these two months, I do not fully understand this violation but I will do my best to fix it.
7. Part III, I will need someone's help on this one, I do not know how to change just one week on the frequency of analysis on NET DMR. The lab ran an extra sample we did not ask for, but I reported it.

Again, I will work to fix the NET DMR issues pointed out in the report, and send a follow up as soon as possible. If you have any questions or concerns please contact me at 479-752-3912.

Sincerely,



James Boston
Public Works Manager
City of Decatur

Decatur Water & Waste Water

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Decatur, Arkansas 72722

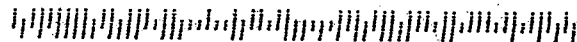
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Inspection Response