

March 25, 2024

Leslie Allen-Daniel
Enforcement Analyst
ADEQ
5301 Northshore Drive
North Little Rock, AR 72118

RE: Decatur Permit Violations Permit Number AR0022292, AFIN 04-00052

Dear Ms. Daniel,

The Decatur WWTP exceeded our 30-day average ammonia permit limit for two weeks in February 2024, with a 5.4 mg/l result. We also exceeded our 7-day average with a 10.2 mg/l result. And thus, exceeding our pounds per day average with a result of 167.3 lbs. per day average.

The reason for our problems with ammonia we believe has been caused for two reasons, one being was the extreme cold conditions coming out of January that we believe may have stunned our nitrifying bacteria. We did ok the first two weeks of February, but then our ammonia numbers began to climb. This problem did carry over into March. The other reason may have been carrying a higher MLSS in our treatment system due to the cold weather issues. But we have had this problem in the past and carrying a higher MLSS did not result in the same problem.

We believe we are coming out of the problem, and I would like to note that only ammonia was affected during this period, leading us to believe that only our nitrifying bacteria were affected for some reason. We have added nitrifying bacteria to our treatment process and also upped our wasting.

If you have any questions or concerns, please give me a call at 479-752-3912.

Sincerely,

James Boston
Public Works Manager
City of Decatur