

February 13, 2018

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

FY152150

RE: Progress Report No. 5
NPDES Permit Number AR0022292, AFIN 04-00052
City of Decatur, CAO LIS 16-094

Dear Mr. Barber:

This letter serves as the fifth quarterly progress report since the referenced CAO went into effect on January 10, 2017. Following is a summary of progress made towards compliance with the final permitted effluent limits since our last progress report dated November 16, 2017.

Interim Operating Plan

The City removed the temporary belt filter press in November 2017. Due to its large size, the press had been installed outside the existing sludge building, and the cold weather/freezing temperatures were impacting the press's ability to operate properly. The City subsequently placed the existing sludge press back into operation at this time, and increased the sludge processing time from 8 hours/day to 14 hours/day to continue reducing solids stored in the WWTP. The existing sludge press is scheduled for routine maintenance this month in order to maximize the operation and efficiency of the unit. The sludge press operation time will be increased if needed.

The City has also continued to divert flows that exceed the treatment capacity of the WWTP to the equalization pond and performed routine maintenance on the UV disinfection system. Finally, the City hired an additional employee at the WWTP, who started work on February 12, 2018. This employee's job function is to spend 90% of his time operating and maintaining the existing Actiflo unit to maximize the treatment efficiency of this equipment.

All of the above described measures will remain in place until the proposed improvements can be installed and placed into operation.

Corrective Action Plan

The CAP was submitted to ADEQ on April 10, 2017 and included a milestone schedule. Below is a brief summary of the project status.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements

The construction permit was issued by ADEQ on November 22, 2017. The NPDES discharge permit modification will enter the 30-day public notice period on February 14, 2018. If no public comments are received, the modified discharge permit will go into effect once the 30-day period has passed.

Mr. Kyle Barber
Page 2
February 13, 2018

During this quarter, the proposed Simmons facility, which will be located approximately 2.5 miles south of Decatur and will replace the existing facility in downtown Decatur, went through the Benton County Planning Commission review/approval phase. Simmons is a major wastewater contributor to Decatur's WWTP, and there was uncertainty during this period as to whether the City would be receiving the wastewater discharge from the new facility. As such, the City could not execute the construction contract with Crossland Heavy Construction (CHC) until this was resolved. The Planning Commission conditionally approved the new Simmons facility on December 20, 2017 (which included the provision for the facility to send its wastewater to the Decatur WWTP), and the 30-day appeal period expired on January 19, 2018. The City and CHC executed the construction contract for the proposed improvements the following week.

Project Schedule

As mentioned in the prior progress report, CHC was originally planning to begin construction on or around December 1, 2017. Due to the aforementioned delays in the Simmons facility obtaining Planning Commission approval, the construction contract was not executed until late January 2018. However, CHC has committed to a substantial completion date of November 1, 2018 in the construction contract, so that the final compliance deadline of December 31, 2018 can be maintained. McClelland Consulting Engineers (MCE) is has been working closely with CHC and the City on processing submittals for the critical path/major equipment items required to achieve this deadline. An update on the construction progress will be provided in the next quarterly progress report in May 2018.

Please don't hesitate to let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Very Truly Yours,



Nicholas R. Batker, PE, CFM

Cc: Mayor Robert Tharp
Mr. James Boston, Director of Public Works
Ryan Adler – Crossland Heavy Construction