

El Dorado Water Utilities

500 NORTH WASHINGTON · P.O. BOX 1587 · EL DORADO, AR 71731 · (870) 862-6451

January 13, 2016

Mr. Richard Healey
Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
5301 Northshore Drive
North Little Rock, Arkansas 72118-5371

Dear Mr. Healey:

Thank you for your phone call yesterday, Monday, January 11, 2016. Regarding the issue concerning the need for an employee with a Class Four Treatment License, I have spoken with former general manager Glenn Holmes and he has agreed to temporarily come on board as a Contract Consultant.

I feel the information provided to us by ADEQ's inspector, Michael Young, in his August 6, 2015 letter regarding his June 16, 2015 inspection; as well as, the conversation he had with our Treatment Manager, John Peppers is in conflict with what you are now requiring of El Dorado Water. There is no mention in Mr. Young's letter of an issue with a Class Four license and in conversations with Mr. Pepper, Mr. Young indicated that as long as EWU was working toward getting the license, it was not a serious concern. If there was a concern, why was that not noted in his letter or mentioned as part of the inspection? Mr. Peppers' response to their conversation is attached to the report, and I must again point out there is no mention of a problem in the report.

Mr. Peppers, our Water and WasteWater Treatment Superintendent, is a valued, tenured employee of 29 years who trained under the direction of Harold Baker before Harold's sudden death. After Mr. Young's inspection, Mr. Peppers began preparing for the Class Four test, attended classes in Fayetteville in November and took his first Class Four test on December 2 at ADEQ. Unfortunately, his score was 11 points short of passing.

In late December, we heard that ADEQ was going to require EWU to obtain someone with a Class Four License and your call on Monday, January 11 officially notified me of that fact.

While I certainly understand the need for rules and regulations, I am troubled by the lack of consistency in communications by ADEQ employees on this issue and in their dealings with EWU. Although we are pleased and grateful to have Mr. Holmes back at EWU as a temporary consultant, the cost of Mr. Holmes's time is money that could be better spent on infrastructure improvement, SSO improvement, etc. Based on our phone conversation yesterday, it seems there will be no particular duties ADEQ expects Mr. Holmes to fulfill.

Please let me know if there is something else we need to do to make this temporary move "official" with the agency. In closing, I would like to say that we do find Mr. Young to be a good inspector to work with and I am not attempting to cause a problem for him.

Sincerely,



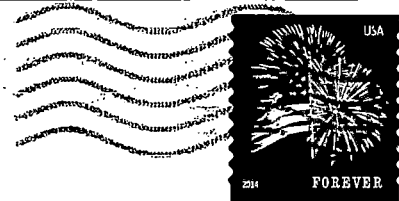
MARK SMITH
General Manager

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