



ARKANSAS

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

December 21, 2021

Ms. Ellen Carpenter
503 Wilson Lake Lane
Hot Springs, AR 71903
Via email to: ejcarpenter503@gmail.com

RE: Spencer Bay Complaint

Dear Ms. Carpenter:

The Department has received your complaint, submitted on December 10, 2021, regarding algal growth within Spencer Bay following the seasonal drawdown of Lake Catherine, and the lack of a mayfly hatch earlier in 2021. As mentioned in your complaint, the City of Hot Springs has experienced Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSO) that discharge to Gulpha Creek and Spencer Bay, namely Manhole 1750 near the Gulpha Creek Pump Station. In an effort to eliminate SSOs within this basin, the Department continues to monitor each SSO event while also regulating the conditions outlined in Consent Administrative Order LIS No. 08-099.

In July 2021, the Department requested the City of Hot Springs to develop an interim plan to address SSOs that drain into Gulpha Creek. This included increased in-person and automated monitoring of manholes; immediate sampling to monitor water quality upon the occurrence of an SSO; and, immediate public notification when water quality issues arise.

In August, the City of Hot Springs enacted plans that allow for more concise response, reporting, public notification, and sampling. Specifically, at Manhole 1750, the City of Hot Springs installed a high level alarm linked to SCADA that allows the operators to monitor the manhole and it provides notifications to staff members during potential SSO occurrences. Other measures taken were the construction of a berm to aid with containment of wastewater and solids; installation of signage; and, the adoption of standard operating procedures for staff members to follow in the event of a SSO. A Consent Administrative Order (CAO) memorializing these requirements specific to Manhole 1750 is currently being drafted and reviewed by Department staff. We anticipate presenting the draft CAO to the City of Hot Springs in the coming weeks.

Attached, you will find a copy of the City of Hot Springs' Standard Operating Procedures for SSOs at Manhole 1750 and an exhibit detailing the sampling and signage locations utilized when an SSO occurs.

The Department appreciates your concern and involvement in this issue. We will continue to require the City of Hot Springs to diligently complete the necessary collection system improvements that should significantly reduce SSOs within the city's sewer system.

Sincerely,

Alan J. York
Associate Director, Office of Water Quality
5301 Northshore Drive, North Little Rock, AR, 72118