



BENTON UTILITIES

BENTON, ARKANSAS

March 21, 2019

Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
NPDES Enforcement Section
5301 Northshore Drive
North Little Rock, AR 72118

RE: NPDES Permit No: AR0036498

The Benton Utilities Wastewater Treatment plant was in non-compliance of its NPDES Permit. Below are the details of the violation.

Date of Non-Compliance	Parameter Exceeded	Quality or Concentration	Permit Limits
2-23-19	7 day Avg TSS	27.8 mg/L	≤ 22.5 mg/L

The monthly TSS removal for the month of February was 89.7% which was above the permit limit of 85%.

The violation was caused by a high EQ basin level and heavy precipitation during the month. The high basin level was due to continued heavy rains in February as well as the limited ability to return flow from the basin due to the loss of one of the plant's secondary clarifiers. The high flow coming into the facility and the loss of the clarifier caused the flow on the remaining clarifiers to exceed their holding capacities which resulted in suspended solids going over the weirs of the clarifiers. Incoming flow was not able to be sent to the EQ basin due to its high level. The operators on duty reacted in a timely manner by diverting flow into the out of service clarifier and using it as a holding tank. This corrective action reduced the flow going into the remaining clarifiers which in turn lowered the load on them and stopped any further solids from going over. Please note that this was a one day event during the month which caused the violation.

The issue is currently being addressed with scheduled work on the out of service clarifier as well as the plant lowering the EQ Basin level during dry weather periods.

Benton Utilities regrets this violation and will continue to work on improving all operations.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Buff

Manager, Wastewater Treatment
Benton Utilities
Benton, AR 72018

Cc: David Vondran, General Manager