



BENTON UTILITIES

BENTON, ARKANSAS

September 13, 2020

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
8-22-20	7 day Avg. NH ₃ -N	2.6 mg/l	2.3 mg/l

The Ammonia Nitrogen (NH₃-N) parameter for the month of August was < 1.48mg/l which was below the permit limit of 1.50 mg/l. In addition, the monthly mass for August was < 51.44 lbs./day which was well below the mass limit for the month of 104.0 lbs./day.

The violation was caused by the loss of the #2 oxidation ditch wasting pump. This resulted in the buildup of old sludge in the oxidation ditch which in turn caused the ammonia level of the ditch to rise. Once the wasting pump was fixed and put back online, the ammonia (NH₃) level started to lower. A sodium hydroxide drip system was temporarily added to the ditch in order to help lower the ammonia level. These actions resulted in the 7-day average of the following week to be to 0.48 mg/l.

Please note that this was a one-time event during the month and that the issue was caught and corrected as quickly as possible.

Daily checks were also put in place to ensure that all pumps are functioning and operating correctly, to prevent this from happening in the future.

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

Sincerely,

Gregory Becker

Manager, Wastewater Treatment
Benton Utilities
Benton, AR 72018

Cc: David Vondran, General Manager