



# BENTON UTILITIES

## BENTON, ARKANSAS

February 18, 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	Quantity of Loading	Quality or Concentration	Permit Limits
1-31-19	30 Avg TSS	1465.9 lbs./day		≤ 1038lbs./day
1-31-19	30 Avg TSS		17.8 mg/L	≤ 15 mg/L
1-31-19	7 day Avg TSS		59.5 mg/L	≤ 22.5 mg/L

Please note that the monthly TSS removal for the month of January was 87.5% which was above the permit limit of 85%. The operators on duty corrected the problem in a timely manner preventing the issue from escalating.

The violation was the direct result of a high EQ basin level. The high level was due to a combination of heavy rains in November and December and the loss of the primary pumps at the Willow Street lift station. The only pumps in service at the lift station during the month of January were the auxiliary pumps. The auxiliary pumps divert all flow to the EQ basin. This resulted in a high level at the basin, which required the plant to use the EQ return pumps just to keep up with the flow coming in from the lift station. The return flow from the EQ basin goes directly to the oxidation ditches and this increased flow resulted in some solids washing out of the clarifiers. It is to be noted that this washout only occurred on one day during month.

The issue has been corrected with the installation of a new Flygt Pump and check valve at the Willow Street lift station. The lift station now sends flow directly to the treatment plant. A second Flygt pump has also been ordered and a third Keen pump is currently in the shop for repairs both of which will help with station flow and serve as backup. The plant is also working on lowering the EQ Basin level during dry weather periods.

Benton Utilities regrets this violation and will better manage plant operations to ensure that this will not happen in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jonathan Buff". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jonathan Buff

Manager, Wastewater Treatment

Benton Utilities

Benton, AR 72018

Cc: David Vondran, General Manager  
Jake Estes, Plant Foreman  
Angela Freeman, Chief Chemist