



June 24, 2020

EMAIL

Ms. Danielle Harbin, Enforcement Analyst  
Arkansas Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ)  
5301 Northshore Drive  
North Little Rock, AR 72118-5317

Re: Mena Water Utilities  
NPDES Permit Number: AR0036692, AFIN-57-00423, CAO LIS 18-046  
Explanation of Permit Exceedance

Dear Ms. Harbin:

A permit exceedance for Total Suspended Solids (TSS) was recorded at the City of Mena's Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) during the month of June 2020. The cause of this recorded TSS exceedance is unknown, but is thought to potentially be a result of winds across the lagoons creating an accumulation of solids near the Lagoon #2 effluent structure that ultimately entered the effluent. All effluent was filtered prior to discharge, but it is suspected that the abnormally high solids loading rate associated with this accumulation limited the effectiveness of the WWTP's filtration system. Laboratory results related to the TSS exceedance will be provided by the City separate from this notification.

As referenced in the City of Mena's Quarterly Progress Report #2 submitted to DEQ on April 15, 2020, the City is currently taking steps toward constructing a new activated sludge wastewater treatment facility that will not be subject to the risk of TSS violations resulting from wind impacts. Hawkins-Weir is currently preparing a Site Selection Study for identifying a location for the new WWTP which is scheduled to be complete in July 2020. Construction of the new WWTP is scheduled to be complete by November 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

HAWKINS-WEIR ENGINEERS, INC.

  
Adrian J. Kaufman, P.E.

AJK/oab

cc: Mr. Charles Pitman, Mena Water Utilities General Manager  
Mr. Mike Spencer, Mena Water Utilities Wastewater Superintendent

110 So. 7th Street • P.O. Box 648 • Van Buren, AR 72957 • Ph: (479) 474-1227 • Fax: (479) 474-8531  
211 Natural Resources Drive • Little Rock, AR 72205 • Ph: (501) 374-4846  
438 East Millsap Road • Suite 200 • Fayetteville, AR 72703 • Ph: (479) 455-2206  
403 Garrison Avenue • Suite 101 • Fort Smith, AR 72901 • Ph: (479) 242-4685

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[www.hawkins-weir.com](http://www.hawkins-weir.com)