



205 Executive Court
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205
Telephone (501) 664-1552
Fax (501) 664-8579
www.cristengineers.com

Matthew D. Dunn
Craig A. Johnson
Leslie B. Price
Chad A. Hastings
Brian N. Wintle

July 25, 2022

VIA E-MAIL: allen-daniel@adeq.state.ar.us
& U.S. MAIL

Leslie Allen-Daniel
Enforcement Coordinator – Office of Water Quality
Arkansas Energy and Environment, Enforcement Branch
5301 Northshore Drive
North Little Rock, AR 72118-5317

RE: City of Walnut Ridge, Arkansas
CAO LIS 17-040: AR0046566, AFIN 38-00040
Progress Report 14

Dear Ms. Allen-Daniel:

Progress Report 14 Summary is provided below.

Item No.	Date	Description
10-04	4/14/21	Issue NPT for WWTP Project
13-01	4/14/21 to Present	Construction at the WWTP is ongoing
13-02	Pending	Final completion of the WWTP Construction improvements is June 27, 2022 per CAO 17-040-002
14-01	7/25/22	Extension request for final compliance on effluent limitations from June 27, 2022 to October 31, 2022
14-02	6/17/22 to 7/12/23	Lift Station Improvements Oak Street, Village Creek, and College City Pump Station

Progress Report 14 Summary

An extension of the CAO to complete the WWTP is requested due to delay of materials manufacturing and delivery to the project site. Attached is an updated schedule from the contractor that indicates start-up to commence at the end of August. We would request an extension to CAO to October 31, 2022, for a final compliance date to address effluent violations at the WWTP, which includes 30-days of start-up and a 30-day compliance period.

Further and perhaps more pressing is that Walnut Ridge has yet to receive a modified NPDES discharge permit for facility improvements authorized under AR0046566C on April 20, 2021. The permit application was administratively complete on November 20, 2019. The last correspondence shown on Permit Data System regarding the permit activity is the EPA response letter dated August 27, 2021, attached for your reference, which appears outstanding.

Leslie Allen-Daniel
City of Walnut Ridge, Arkansas
CAO LIS 17-040: ARO046566, AFIN 38-00040
Progress Report 14
Page 2 of 2

The current WWTP facility is not reliably meeting NPDES discharge requirements, and our preference is to commence discharge from the new facility at the completion of the start-up period, so that water quality to the receiving stream can be improved and compliance achieved.

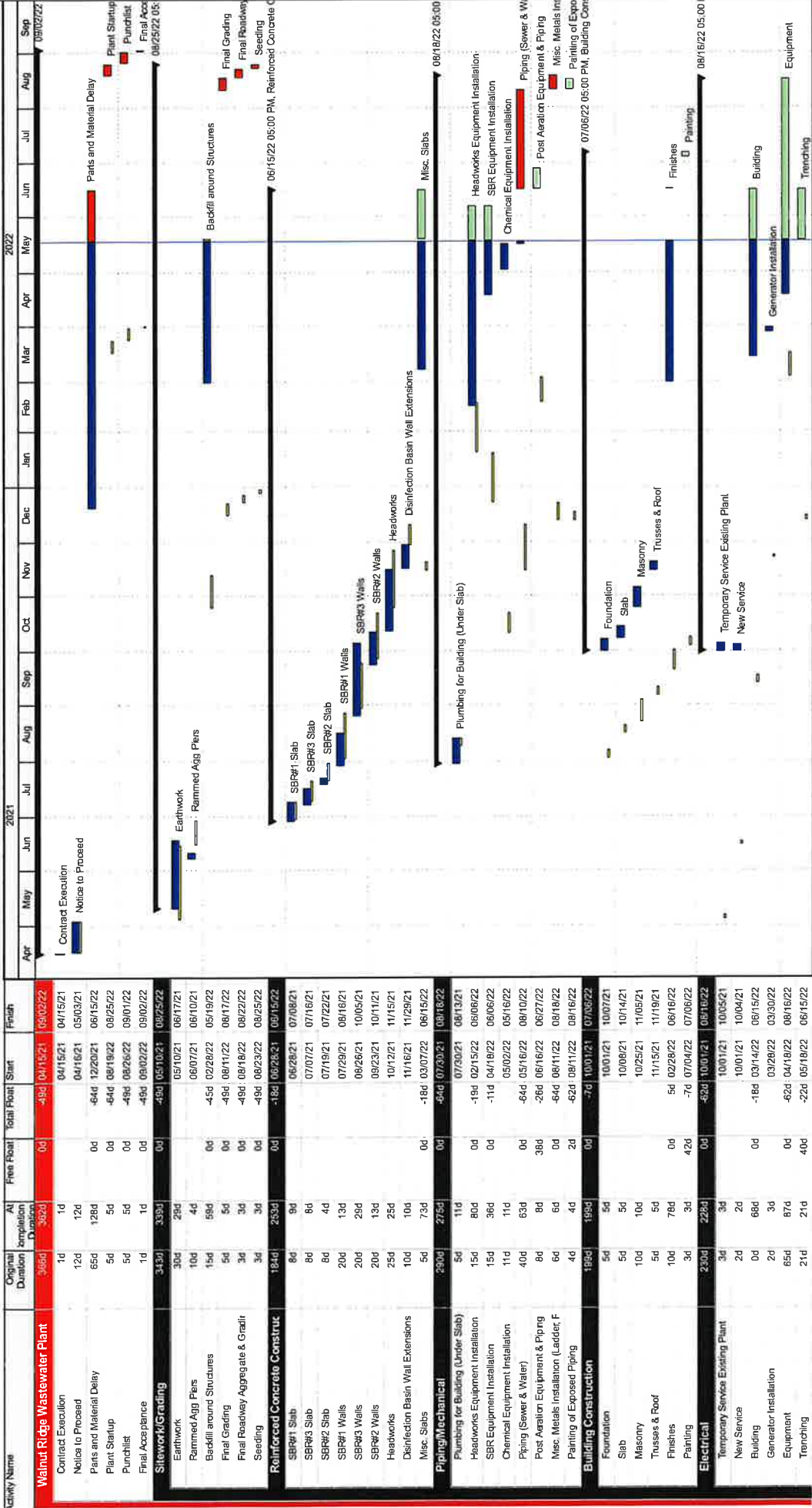
Please contact me at your earliest convenience to discuss options to commence discharge on or before October 31, 2022.

Sincerely,
Crist Engineers, Inc.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Craig A. Johnson, P.E." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

Craig A. Johnson, P.E.
Vice President

Cc: Jon Kopp
City Water Works Manager





UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6

1201 ELM STREET, SUITE 500

DALLAS, TEXAS 75270

August 27, 2021

Bryan Leamons
Senior Operations Manager
Office of Water Quality
Division of Environmental Quality
5301 North Shore Drive
North Little Rock, AR 72118-5317

Re: City of Walnut Ridge
AR0046566

Dear Mr. Leamons,

Thank you for the opportunity to review the preliminary draft/modified permit for the City of Walnut Ridge (AR0046566), which was received by this office August 2, 2021. Based on our review of the above referenced draft permit, EPA has the following comments.

- The proposed permit modification omits yearly influent monitoring as a condition of the percent removal regulatory requirement stated in Part II.2 of the permit. 40 CFR 133.102 states that "All requirements for each parameter shall be achieved except as provided for in 40 CFR 133.103 and 133.105." As it is written in the draft permit the percent removal requirement (Part II.2) assumes that the 85% removal rate is achieved but this is contrary to the regulatory language in 40 CFR 133.102 that states "All" and "for each parameter."

In order to demonstrate that the 85% removal requirement is being met EPA recommends revising the language in Part II.2 of the permit to require the permittee to monitor the influent at least once per year so that the percent removal can be calculated in order to ensure compliance.

- Number 11 of the fact sheet states that the treated sludge is disposed of by land application under DEQ State Permit No. 4800-W. This information is not included in the public notice. EPA understands that Arkansas does not have authority over its biosolids program but regulatory requirements at 40 CFR 124.10(d)(vii) state that for NPDES permits a general description of the sludge use and disposal practice(s) and the location of each sludge treatment works treating domestic sewage and use or disposal sites known at the time of permit application are required to be included in the public notice.

This information was provided in the submitted renewal application and restated in the permit, so EPA recommends including the sludge practices and disposal site information in the public notice in order to comply with federal regulations at 40 CFR 124.10

- Section B.6, Form 2A in the application file states that the effluent concentration of phosphorus is 1.13mg/L and 1.30mg/L average daily and daily maximum, respectively. EPA's Gold Book

recommends that total phosphorus concentrations not exceed 0.1 mg/L to prevent interference with the coagulation process in wastewater treatment. EPA examined the states reasonable potential guidance, in particular, the calculation for instream waste concentrations (IWC) and noted an inconsistency in the equations used in the toxicity evaluation spreadsheet that is used for each facility, the currently approved 2000 continuing planning process (CPP), and the 2020 draft CPP currently in review. In addition, regulations at 40 CFR 122.44(d)(1)(i) require that "Limitations must control all pollutants or pollutant parameters (either conventional, nonconventional, or toxic pollutants) which the Director determines are or may be discharged at a level which will cause, have the reasonable potential to cause, or contribute to an excursion above any State water quality standard, including State narrative criteria for water quality."

EPA recommends that DEQ address the inconsistency with the IWC equations to promote public transparency and also address whether the phosphorus concentration in the discharge has reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an excursion of the narrative nutrient standard

- DMR data for the facility indicates numerous exceedences over the last permit cycle. The concentration of total ammonia as nitrogen (TAN) reported was not only significantly above the required limits in the draft permit but also above the EPA's recommended freshwater water quality criteria which states, "acute ambient water quality criteria (AWQC) for protecting freshwater organisms from potential effects of ammonia is 17 mg/L TAN and the final chronic AWQC for ammonia is 1.9 mg/L TAN at pH 7.0 and temperature 20 °C." (78 FR 52192).

Thank you for your continued cooperation in administering the CWA permitting program. EPA reiterates that it is DEQ's responsibility as the NPDES permitting authority to ensure permits comply with state and federal regulations. If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at (214) 665-2230 or reply directly to Juanita Huff at (214) 665-2794 (e-mail: huff.juanita@epa.gov).

Sincerely,



Maria L. Martinez
Branch Chief
Permitting and Water Quality Branch

cc: Alan York (ADEQ Office of Water Quality)