



A R K A N S A S  
Department of Environmental Quality

June 1, 2009

Mr. James Boston, Public Works Director  
City of Decatur  
P.O. Box 247  
Decatur, Arkansas 72722

RE: Sanitary Sewer Overflow Reporting

AFIN: 04-00052      NPDES Permit No.: AR0022292

Dear Mr. Boston:

On May 8, 2009, I performed a reconnaissance inspection of the wastewater treatment facility collection system in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Clean Water Act, the Arkansas Water and Air Pollution Control Act, and the regulations promulgated thereunder. Two sanitary sewer overflows were observed. An overflow was observed at a manhole adjacent to 2<sup>nd</sup> St. (south of W. Roller Ave.), and another was observed at a manhole on a resident's property northwest of the intersection of Spring St. and Hall St. At each location, it was evident that the sewage from the collection system had discharged into the stream adjacent to the manholes. This inspection revealed the following violation:

Discharge of raw sewage from your collection system causing pollution to the waters of the State. This is in violation of the Arkansas Water and Air Pollution Control Act, Ark. Code Ann. §8-4-217(a)(1). Sewage from the manholes referenced above had entered Colombia Hollow Creek, a tributary to Spavinaw Creek.

Although you reported a sanitary sewer overflow of approximately 200 gallons to the Department on May 8, 2009, you did not specify the location of the overflow, nor did you report that the overflow had entered Columbia Hollow Creek (see attached photos). It is necessary that you provide this information to the Department in accordance with the reporting requirements of your permit.

According to Mr. James Beemer, a resident we spoke with while at the Spring St. overflow location, overflows occur at this manhole each time there is significant rainfall. Mr. Beemer stated that an overflow occurred at this location within two weeks prior to our visit. Mr. Beemer stated that he has reported many overflows from this manhole to the City of Decatur; however, Departmental records indicate that overflows from this manhole were reported to the Department on March 19, 2008, and June 9, 2008 only. You reported the June 9, 2008 overflow to the Department after we informed you that it was occurring.

James Boston, City of Decatur

June 1, 2009

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The above items require your immediate attention. Please submit a written response to these findings to Cindy Garner, Water Division Enforcement Branch Manager. This response should be mailed to the address below. This response should contain documentation describing the course of action taken to correct each item noted. This corrective action should be completed as soon as possible, and the written response is due by June 11, 2009.

For additional information you may contact the Enforcement Branch by telephone at 501-682-0639 or by fax at 501-682-0910. If I can be of any assistance, please contact me at 479-267-0811, ext. 16.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Fazio". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "F".

John Fazio  
District 1 Field Inspector  
Water Division

cc: Water Division Enforcement Branch  
Water Division Permits Branch



**Water Division NPDES Photographic Evidence Sheet**

<b>Location:</b>	Decatur SSO locations						
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<b>Photographer:</b>	John Fazio	<b>Witness:</b>	Alison West		
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<b>Photo #</b>	1	<b>Of</b>	3	<b>Date:</b>	05/08/09	<b>Time:</b>	1347
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<b>Description:</b>	Manhole immediately east of 2 <sup>nd</sup> St. overflowed into Columbia Hollow Creek.						
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<b>Photographer:</b>	John Fazio	<b>Witness:</b>	Alison West		
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<b>Photo #</b>	2	<b>Of</b>	3	<b>Date:</b>	05/08/09	<b>Time:</b>	1414
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<b>Description:</b>	SSO from manhole north of Spring St.						
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**Water Division NPDES Photographic Evidence Sheet**

<b>Location:</b>	Decatur SSO locations						
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<b>Photographer:</b>	John Fazio	<b>Witness:</b>	Alison West		
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<b>Photo #</b>	3	<b>Of</b>	3		<b>Date:</b>	05/08/09	<b>Time:</b>	1415
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<b>Description:</b>	Spring St. sanitary sewer overflowed from manhole into Columbia Hollow Creek (in background).							
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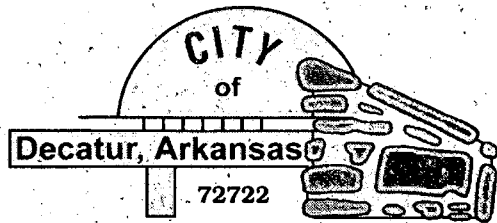


<b>Photographer:</b>				<b>Witness:</b>	None			
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<b>Photo #</b>		<b>Of</b>			<b>Date:</b>		<b>Time:</b>	
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<b>Description:</b>								
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310 Maple Avenue • P.O. Box 247  
Phone: (479) 752-3912

June 9, 2009

Cindy Garner  
Water Division Enforcement Branch Manager  
5301 Northshore Drive  
North Little Rock AR 72118-5317

RE: Sanitary Sewer Overflow Follow up report Permit No. AR0022292

Dear Ms Garner,

I am following up on the letter dated June 1<sup>st</sup> 2009 sent to me by Mr. Fazio concerning the slight overflow we had at the intersection of Second Street and Pool Street. After looking at the form I filled out on the day of the overflow I did not put the address of the overflow or the location on the form, I went through the form and thought I was filling it out completely but with everything going on that day I did not put the location and Creek it would have went into if it would have reached the creek. This was also a different form than I have used on your website in the past. I do apologize for not filling out the form completely; I did not purposely leave the address off the form. The water did not reach the creek at that location but did get the road wet.

It does appear that the water did overflow from the other manhole that Mr. Fazio photographed that we did not know about. We noticed the leak starting to happen at the 2<sup>nd</sup> and Pool Street location and immediately went to get the rodding machine to get rid of the blockage by debris that we had. This manhole is in front and in the street by Simmons Foods which I know would have been reported to us if they had observed the overflow. The other manhole that Mr. Fazio observed is upstream of the manhole that we cleared debris from.

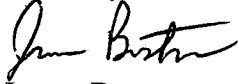
To ensure this problem does not happen again, if the manhole at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Pool happens to overflow in the future we will also check the upstream manholes back to Spring street to make sure they have not also overflowed and report them if they have. As for Mr. Fazio's contact with Mr. Beemer, I believe there have been issues between Mr. Beemer and the City long before I went to work for the City and I am sure that he had a great opportunity to make the City look bad by talking to Mr. Fazio. Every water leak or manhole overflow is looked into immediately when reported. I would like to say that the manhole photographed on that day was not reported to us by Mr. Beemer or Mr. Fazio to my knowledge.

The line that had the blockage is a very busy sewer line. Our new WWTP comes on line in the next few weeks and this should eliminate a problem this line has always had and

that is being slightly surcharged during high water usage or rainfall. When opening up the new line into the new WWTP this problem should be eliminated.

If you have any questions or concerns please call me at 479-752-3912.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Boston". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jim" and last name "Boston" clearly distinguishable.

James Boston  
Public Works Manager  
City of Decatur



# Decatur Water & Waste Water

P.O. Box 247 • 310 Maple Ave.  
Decatur, Arkansas 72722



ADEQ  
5301 Northshore Drive  
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72118+5317

