



ARKANSAS
Department of Environmental Quality

November 23, 2009

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

RE: Sanitary Sewer Manhole Overflows and Sewer Main Cleanout Discharge

AFIN: 04-00052 NPDES Permit No.: AR0022292

Dear Mr. Boston:

On October 9, 2009, October 14, 2009 and November 3, 2009, I performed reconnaissance inspections 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. Each inspection is discussed separately below:

October 9, 2009 Collection System Inspection:

On October 9, 2009, I conducted an investigation related to manhole overflows in your waste collection system. Two complaints of manhole overflows were received by the Department on this date, and another complaint related to these overflows was received by the Department on October 12, 2009. This investigation revealed the following violations:

1. Discharges of 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). Overflows from six manholes were observed on the date of this inspection. The waste from each of the six manholes was entering the waters of the State (see photographs attached to the October 9, 2009 inspection). The overflows discharged directly into or ultimately into Columbia Hollow Creek (may be referred to as Cave Springs Branch).
2. Failure to report several of the six observed manhole overflows to the Department in accordance with the requirements of Part II.5 and Part III.D.6 of your permit. Below is a summary that includes the location of each overflow observed by the Department on this date, and the date that the overflow was reported to the Department, if reported.
 - a. Two manholes located behind the Wellness Secrets business, located on Hwy 102. The Department received a complaint by an employee of this business on October 9, 2009. The complainant stated that she had reported the overflows to the City of Decatur on this date, and that within thirty minutes of her call to the City, your staff

arrived at the site. These overflows were not reported to the Department until October 15, 2009.

- b. A manhole located at the apartment complex on Hwy 102, located immediately west and downgradient from Wellness Secrets. I made you aware of this overflow during our meeting on October 14, 2009. To date, the Department has no record of a report of this overflow from the City.
 - c. The manhole located in James Beemer's yard at the intersection of Hwy 59 and Spring St. A report of this overflow was received by the Department on October 9, 2009.
 - d. The manhole located at 404 Spring St. After the inspection, Mr. Beemer stated that he reported both Spring St. overflows to the City on October 9, 2009. The Spring St. sewer main drains east to west, and the Hwy 59 sewer main drains south to north. The manhole in Mr. Beemer's yard is located along the Hwy 59 main just south of where the Spring St. main tees into the Hwy 59 main from the east. During our meeting on October 14, 2009, you stated that inflow and infiltration (I & I) problems in the Hwy 59 main south of the tee causes flow to backup in the Spring St. main that results in manhole overflows along Spring St. You also stated that the City initially thought the I & I problems were along the Spring St. main because of periodic overflows from the Spring St. manholes. The manhole at 404 Spring St. is at a lower elevation than the manhole located in Mr. Beemer's yard. Based on the conditions described above, if an overflow is occurring at the manhole on Mr. Beemer's property, it is likely that an overflow is occurring at the 404 Spring St. manhole as well. Nevertheless, I discussed this overflow with you on October 14, 2009. The City did not report the overflow to the Department until October 14, 2009.
 - e. The manhole located on the west bank of the creek and 2nd St (behind Simmons Foods). I made you aware of this overflow on October 14, 2009. To date, the Department has no record of a report of this overflow from the City.
3. Failure to remove and dispose of the solids associated with some of these overflows in accordance with the requirements of Part II.5 of the permit. On October 12, 2009, the Department received a complaint from a resident who stated that his dogs had rolled in the solids that had overflowed from the manhole in Mr. Beemer's yard and the manhole at 404 Spring St. In addition, on October 15, 2009, the Department observed waste (condoms) from the Simmons overflow on top of the vented manhole. Photographs of this same waste were taken by the Department on October 9, 2009. As we discussed during our meeting on October 14, 2009, it is necessary to clean up all solids associated with an overflow, and to lime the affected areas as soon as the overflow ceases. These solids are an endangerment to health and the environment.

October 14, 2009 Collection System Inspection:

On October 14, 2009, I investigated two complaints related to a discharge from a sewage main cleanout in your waste collection system. This cleanout is located at the northeast corner of the intersection of Hwy 59 and Spring St. immediately adjacent to the south bank of the creek. The cleanout is positioned where the Spring St. main tees into the Hwy 59 main (as described in item 2.d above). The complaints concerning this discharge were received by the Department on October 13, 2009, and another complaint related to this discharge and the October 13, 2009 and October 14, 2009 manhole overflows was received by the Department on October 19, 2009. This investigation revealed the following violations:

1. Discharges of 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). The manhole overflows and the sewer main cleanout release discharged directly into Columbia Hollow Creek (may be referred to as Cave Springs Branch).
 - a. The sewer main cleanout cap was deliberately removed from the City on the morning of October 13, 2009. Direct discharge from the cleanout into the creek began at this time and continued until the Department advised you to cap the cleanout mid-afternoon on October 14, 2009.
 - b. You stated that an overflow from the manhole on Mr. Beemer's property on the morning of October 13, 2009 prompted the City to open this cleanout as a safety precaution because the manhole overflow was entering Hwy 59 and causing a traffic problem. According to your report and your statements during our October 14, 2009 meeting, the overflow from this manhole entered the creek until the cleanout cap was removed by the City.
 - c. Overflow from the manhole at 404 Spring St. into the creek. On the morning of October 13, 2009, an overflow occurred at this manhole and continued until the cleanout cap was removed. When the cleanout was capped mid-afternoon on October 14, 2009, the manhole at 404 Spring St. began to overflow again and continued until I & I receded.
2. Failure to report the October 13, 2009 overflows to the Department within twenty-four hours from the time the City became aware of the circumstances. This is in violation of Part II.5 and Part III.D.6 of your permit. A report of these overflows was received by the Department on October 15, 2009.
3. The City's deliberate removal of the sewer main cleanout cap to allow for direct discharge of raw sewage into the waters of the State is in violation of Regulation 6.106(C) and Part III.D.2 of your permit. Reg.6.106(C) states that no person shall construct, install or operate any building plant, works, establishment or facility or any extension or modification thereto, the operation of which would result in discharge of any wastes into the waters of the State or

would otherwise alter the physical, chemical, or biological properties of any waters of the State in any manner not already lawfully authorized. Part III.D.2 of your permit states that the permittee shall give advance notice to the Director of any planned changes in the permitted facility or activity which may result in noncompliance with permit requirements. During our October 14, 2009 meeting, you stated that the City had opened this sewer main cleanout in the past as well, usually during winter months, as a measure to prevent overflows from the manhole in Mr. Beemer's yard from entering the street and causing traffic or safety hazards.

4. Failure to remove and dispose of the solids associated with this cleanout discharge and manhole overflows in accordance with the requirements of Part II.5 of the permit. On October 18, 2009, the Department received a complaint that the solids around the cleanout and at the manholes on Mr. Beemer's property and 404 Spring St. had not been removed, and that the areas had not been limed. The complainant included photographs with his complaint to support his claim. In addition, the Department observed solids at the cleanout and at the manholes during this inspection and during the subsequent inspection. You indicated in your October 15, 2009 overflow report that there were no visible signs of debris.

November 3, 2009 Collection System Inspection:

On this date, I met with Altin Verser, City of Decatur staff, at a lift station located just south of the intersection of Hwy 102 and Mt. Olive Rd in Decatur. Sewage waste solids were present on electrical wiring and a junction box located at the top of the lift station wet well just below the lid. Solids were also present on the base of the well lid. Mr. Verser stated that the lift station well overflowed on October 8, 2009 and/or October 9, 2009 as a result of heavy rains. The following violation was noted:

- Failure to report the overflow as required by Part II.5 and Part III.D.6 of your permit.

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 indicated below. This response should contain documentation describing the course of action taken to correct each item noted. Color photographs documenting corrective actions taken must be included in your response where applicable. This corrective action should be completed as soon as possible, and the written response is due by December 3, 2009.

Note that when electronically reporting sewage overflows or releases that ultimately discharge into the waters of the State that it is necessary to indicate on the Environmental Damage section of the form that you observed or that there was evidence of environmental impact by placing a check mark in the OEEI box. On the forms you submitted, you placed a check mark in the NEAH (No Evidence of Adverse Health/Environmental Impact) box.

James Boston, City of Decatur
November 18, 2009
Page 5

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, appearing to read "John Fazio". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

John Fazio
District 1 Field Inspector
Water Division

cc: Water Division Enforcement Branch
Water Division Permits Branch



Form Approved
OMB No. 2040-0003

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Washington, D.C. 20460

NPDES Compliance Inspection Report

Section A: National Data System Coding

Transaction Code			NPDES										Yr/Mo/Day					Inspec. Type		Inspector		Fac. Type							
1	N	2	5	3	A	R	0	0	2	2	2	9	2	11	12	0	9	1	1	0	3	17	18	R	19	S	20	1	
Remarks																													
Inspection Work Days						Facility Evaluation Rating						BI		QA		-----Reserved-----													
67						70	N	71	N	72	N	73			74														80

Section B: Facility Data

Name and Location of Facility Inspected (<i>For industrial users discharging to POTW, also include POTW name and NPDES permit number</i>) City of Decatur POTW (Collection System) 985 Austin St. Decatur Arkansas	Entry Time/Date 1202 / 11-03-09	Permit Effective Date 06-01-09
	Exit Time/Date 1216 / 11-03-09	Permit Expiration Date 05-31-14
Name(s) of On-Site Representative(s)/Title(s)/Phone and Fax Number(s) Altin Verser, Operator, 479-752-3912	Other Facility Data Lift Station: ~36.3466, -94.4647 South of Mt. Olive & Hwy 102 Int.	
Name, Address of Responsible Official/Title/Phone and Fax Number James Boston, Public Works Director City of Decatur P.O. Box 247 Decatur, Arkansas 72722 479-752-3912, 479-752-8336	Contacted Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Section C: Areas Evaluated During Inspection

(S = Satisfactory, M = Marginal, U = Unsatisfactory, N = Not Evaluated)

S	Permit	N	Flow Measurement	N	Operations & Maintenance	N	Sampling
N	Records/Reports	N	Self-Monitoring Program	N	Sludge Handling/Disposal	N	Pollution Prevention
N	Facility Site Review	N	Compliance Schedules	N	Pretreatment	N	Multimedia
N	Effluent/Receiving Waters	N	Laboratory	N	Storm Water	U	Other: SSO recon

Section D: Summary of Findings/Comments (Attach additional sheets if necessary)

On November 3, 2009, I met with Altin Verser, City of Decatur, at a lift station where he was performing maintenance. The lift station is located just south of the intersection of Mt. Olive Rd. & Hwy 102. Based on the level of solids in the wet well (see attached photos), it was evident that the well had overflowed recently. Mr. Verser stated that an overflow was occurring at this station on 10/08/09 and/or 10/09/09. The following violation was noted:

- Failure to report the overflow to the Department as required by the permit.

See inspection letter addressed to the City of Decatur dated 11/18/09 for more details. This inspection is one of three SSO reconnaissance inspections that were conducted on 10/09/09, 10/14/09, and 11/03/09.

Name(s) and Signature(s) of Inspector(s) John Fazio	Agency/Office/Telephone/Fax AR Dept. of Environmental Quality - Fayetteville 479-267-0811, ext. 16; 479-267-0819	Date 11/18/09
Signature of Reviewer	Agency/Office/Phone and Fax Numbers	Date

Water Division NPDES Photographic Evidence Sheet

Location: Lift Station - southeast of Hwy 102 & Mt. Olive Rd. intersection

Photographer: John Fazio **Witness:** None

Photo # 1 **Of** 4 **Date:** 11/03/09 **Time:** 1211

Description: Balls of grease visible atop junction box below lid. Solids also present on base of well lid.



Photographer: John Fazio **Witness:** None

Photo # 2 **Of** 4 **Date:** 11/03/09 **Time:** 1211

Description: Grease and condoms on box and wiring at top of well.



Water Division NPDES Photographic Evidence Sheet

Location:	Lift Station - southeast of Hwy 102 & Mt. Olive Rd. intersection
------------------	--

Photographer:	John Fazio	Witness:	None
----------------------	------------	-----------------	------

Photo #	3	Of	4	Date:	11/03/09	Time:	1212
----------------	---	-----------	---	--------------	----------	--------------	------

Description:	Conditions in wet well.
---------------------	-------------------------



Photographer:	John Fazio	Witness:	None
----------------------	------------	-----------------	------

Photo #	4	Of	4	Date:	11/03/09	Time:	1215
----------------	---	-----------	---	--------------	----------	--------------	------

Description:	Location of lift station. Looking to northwest.
---------------------	---



