

ADEQ

ARKANSAS
Department of Environmental Quality

CERTIFIED MAIL: 9489 9909 0027 6022 2429 36

February 12, 2018

Robert Tharp, Mayor
City of Decatur
P.O. Box 247
Decatur, AR 72722

RE: City of Decatur WWTP Inspection
AFIN: 04-00052 Permit No.: AR0022292

Dear Mayor Tharp:

On February 2, 2018, I performed a Reconnaissance Inspection of the above referenced facility in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Clean Water Act, the Arkansas Water and Air Pollution Control Act, and the regulations promulgated thereunder. A copy of the inspection report is enclosed for your records.

Please refer to the “Summary of Findings” section of the attached inspection report and provide a written response for each violation that was noted. This case has been referred directly to the Office of Water Quality Enforcement Branch for further review. The City of Decatur should immediately initiate all actions necessary to resolve and correct the alleged violations cited in the inspection report. Written notification of the corrective actions taken for the alleged violations must be submitted within thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of this letter to the attention of Richard Healey, Enforcement Branch Manager, at (501) 682-0649 or healeyr@adeq.state.ar.us. This written notification should include; but not limited to, photographs and/or copies of other documentation.

If I can be of any assistance, please contact me at grimesg@adeq.state.ar.us or 479.267.0811 extension 16.

Sincerely,



Garrett Grimes
District 1 Field Inspector
Office of Water Quality

CC: Richard Healey, Enforcement Branch Manager, healeyr@adeq.state.ar.us



ARKANSAS
Department of Environmental Quality

OFFICE OF WATER QUALITY INSPECTION REPORT

AFIN: 04-00052	PERMIT #: AR0022292	DATE: 2/2/2018
COUNTY: 04 Benton	PDS #: 101385	MEDIA: WN
GPS LAT: 36.34417 LONG: -94.47250 LOCATION: Outfall		

FACILITY INFORMATION	INSPECTION INFORMATION
<small>NAME:</small> City of Decatur WWTP <small>LOCATION:</small> 985 Austin Ave. <small>CITY:</small> Decatur	<small>FACILITY TYPE:</small> 1 - Municipal <small>INSPECTOR ID#:</small> 104111 S - State <small>FACILITY EVALUATION RATING:</small> *** <small>INSPECTION TYPE:</small> Reconnaissance <small>DATE(S):</small> <small>ENTRY TIME:</small> <small>EXIT TIME:</small> <small>PERMIT EFFECTIVE DATE:</small> 2/2/2018 11:50 13:15 10/1/2014 <small>PERMIT EXPIRATION DATE:</small> 9/30/2019
RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL	<small>FAYETTEVILLE SHALE RELATED:</small> N <small>FAYETTEVILLE SHALE VIOLATIONS:</small> N
<small>NAME / TITLE</small> Robert Tharp / Mayor <small>COMPANY:</small> City of Decatur <small>MAILING ADDRESS:</small> P.O. Box 247 <small>CITY, STATE, ZIP:</small> Decatur AR 72722 <small>PHONE & EXT. / FAX:</small> <small>EMAIL:</small> 	INSPECTION PARTICIPANTS
<small>CONTACTED DURING INSPECTION:</small> Yes	<small>NAME/TITLE/PHONE/FAX/EMAIL/ETC.:</small> James Boston, Public Works Dir., City of Decatur, 479-212-0726, jboston.cod@gmail.com

AREA EVALUATIONS					
(S=Satisfactory, M=Marginal, U=Unsatisfactory, N=Not Applicable/Evaluated)					
**	PERMIT	**	FLOW MEASUREMENT	**	STORMWATER
**	RECORDS/REPORTS	**	LABORATORY	**	FACILITY SITE REVIEW
**	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE	U	EFFLUENT/RECEIVING WATER	**	SELF-MONITORING PROGRAM
**	SAMPLING	**	SLUDGE HANDLING/DISPOSAL	**	PRETREATMENT
**	OTHER:				

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

ADEQ received a complaint on January 30, 2018, alleging sewage was entering Columbia Hollow Creek. ADEQ contacted the complainant who stated that what appeared to be sludge was coming from the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) in Decatur and collecting on his property. On February 2, 2018, ADEQ responded to the complaint with a reconnaissance inspection of the WWTP.

Turbid water and deposited solids were observed near the Mt. Zion Road bridge approximately 1.5 miles downstream from the WWTP (Photos #1 - #9, Attachment 1). The area also had a strong aroma similar to that of a WWTP aeration basin. Upstream of the WWTP, Columbia Hollow Creek appeared noticeably less turbid and solids were not observed deposited in the creek (Photos #10 - #13, Attachment). Water was collected in glass vials from both the previously mentioned downstream and upstream areas for visual comparison (Photos #14 - #15, Attachment 1). The water from downstream of the WWTP visually appeared to contain a greater amount of suspended solids than the water upstream of the WWTP (Photo #16).

ADEQ met with James Boston, Public Works Manager, City of Decatur, at the WWTP. Mr. Boston stated that the WWTP is currently overloaded and is being negatively impacted by the cold. Mr. Boston accompanied ADEQ to the outfall where turbid water and solids were being discharged into Columbia Hollow Creek (Photos #17 - #18, Attachment 1). Mr. Boston stated that these discharges have been occurring off and on for the past several months, but believes that the effluent condition will improve with warmer weather. Mr. Boston also stated that improvements to expand the WWTP's ability to treat wastewater have been approved and he believes they will be completed by November 2018.

The City of Decatur's WWTP is discharging effluent containing solids and causing the formation of bottom

deposits and sludge banks in Columbia Hollow Creek (Photos #1 - #9 & #17 - #18. As mentioned above, this is an ongoing issue. This is in violation of Part I, Section A. of the permit and the Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission Regulation 2.503.

GENERAL COMMENTS

INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:



Garrett Grimes

DATE: **2/7/2018**

SUPERVISOR'S SIGNATURE:



Jason Bolenbaugh

DATE: **2/9/2018**

EFFLUENT/RECEIVING WATERS OBSERVATIONS							
BASED ON VISUAL OBSERVATIONS ONLY						<input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NE	
DETAILS:							
OUTFALL #:	OIL SHEEN	GREASE	TURBIDITY	VISIBLE FOAM	FLOATING SOLIDS	COLOR	OTHER
001	None	None	High	None	Yes	Brown-grey	--

Office of Water Quality Photographic Evidence Sheet

Location:	City of Decatur WWTP		
Photographer:	Garrett Grimes, District 1 Inspector	Date:	02/02/2018
Witness:		Time:	11:59
		Photo #:	1
Description:	Turbid water and deposited solids downstream of the WWTP (1 of 9).		



Photographer:	Garrett Grimes, District 1 Inspector	Date:	02/02/2018
Witness:		Time:	11:59
		Photo #:	2
Description:	Turbid water and deposited solids downstream of the WWTP (2 of 9).		



Office of Water Quality Photographic Evidence Sheet

Location:	City of Decatur WWTP		
Photographer:	Garrett Grimes, District 1 Inspector	Date:	02/02/2018
Witness:		Time:	12:01
		Photo #:	3
Description:	Turbid water and deposited solids downstream of the WWTP (3 of 9).		



Photographer:	Garrett Grimes, District 1 Inspector	Date:	02/02/2018
Witness:		Time:	12:01
		Photo #:	4
Description:	Turbid water and deposited solids downstream of the WWTP (4 of 9).		



Office of Water Quality Photographic Evidence Sheet

Location:	City of Decatur WWTP		
Photographer:	Garrett Grimes, District 1 Inspector	Date:	02/02/2018
Witness:		Time:	12:01
		Photo #:	5
Description:	Turbid water and deposited solids downstream of the WWTP (5 of 9).		



Photographer:	Garrett Grimes, District 1 Inspector	Date:	02/02/2018
Witness:		Time:	12:01
		Photo #:	6
Description:	Turbid water and deposited solids downstream of the WWTP (6 of 9).		



Office of Water Quality Photographic Evidence Sheet

Location:	City of Decatur WWTP		
Photographer:	Garrett Grimes, District 1 Inspector	Date:	02/02/2018
Witness:		Time:	12:02
		Photo #:	7
Description:	Turbid water and deposited solids downstream of the WWTP (7 of 9).		



Photographer:	Garrett Grimes, District 1 Inspector	Date:	02/02/2018
Witness:		Time:	12:02
		Photo #:	8
Description:	Turbid water and deposited solids downstream of the WWTP (8 of 9).		



Office of Water Quality Photographic Evidence Sheet

Location:	City of Decatur WWTP		
Photographer:	Garrett Grimes, District 1 Inspector	Date:	02/02/2018
Witness:		Time:	12:02
		Photo #:	9
Description:	Turbid water and deposited solids downstream of the WWTP (9 of 9).		



Photographer:	Garrett Grimes, District 1 Inspector	Date:	02/02/2018
Witness:		Time:	12:32
		Photo #:	10
Description:	Upstream of the WWTP showing the water is not turbid and the previously observed solids are not present (1 of 4).		



Office of Water Quality Photographic Evidence Sheet

Location:	City of Decatur WWTP		
Photographer:	Garrett Grimes, District 1 Inspector	Date:	02/02/2018
Witness:		Time:	12:32
		Photo #:	11


Description: **Upstream of the WWTP showing the water is not turbid and the previously observed solids are not present (2 of 4).**



Photographer:	Garrett Grimes, District 1 Inspector	Date:	02/02/2018
Witness:		Time:	12:32
		Photo #:	12

Description: **Upstream of the WWTP showing the water is not turbid and the previously observed solids are not present (3 of 4).**



Office of Water Quality Photographic Evidence Sheet			
Location:	City of Decatur WWTP		
Photographer:	Garrett Grimes, District 1 Inspector	Date:	02/02/2018
Witness:		Time:	12:32
		Photo #:	13
Description:	Upstream of the WWTP showing the water is not turbid and the previously observed solids are not present (4 of 4).		
			
Photographer:	Garrett Grimes, District 1 Inspector	Date:	02/02/2018
Witness:		Time:	12:16
		Photo #:	14
Description:	Glass vial with water from downstream of the WWTP.		
			

Office of Water Quality Photographic Evidence Sheet			
Location:	City of Decatur WWTP		
Photographer:	Garrett Grimes, District 1 Inspector	Date:	02/02/2018
Witness:		Time:	12:39
		Photo #:	15
Description:	Glass vial with water from upstream of the WWTP.		
			
Photographer:	Garrett Grimes, District 1 Inspector	Date:	02/02/2018
Witness:		Time:	12:42
		Photo #:	16
Description:	Comparison of water collected downstream (left) vs. upstream (right).		
			

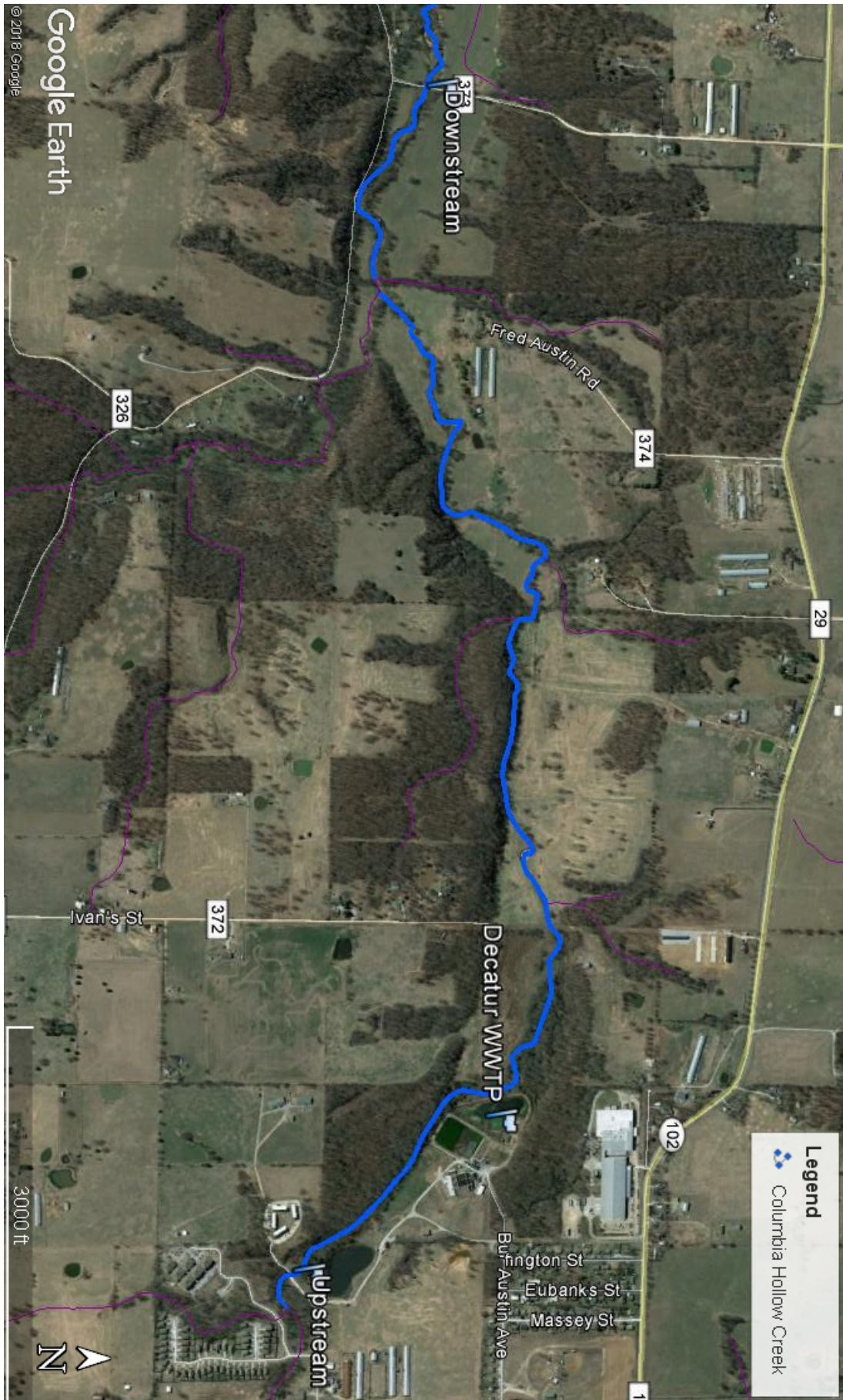
Office of Water Quality Photographic Evidence Sheet

Location:	City of Decatur WWTP		
Photographer:	Garrett Grimes, District 1 Inspector	Date:	02/02/2018
Witness:		Time:	13:08
		Photo #:	17
Description:	The City of Decatur's WWTP outfall 001. Photograph shows the discharge of turbid water and deposited solids.		



Photographer:	Garrett Grimes, District 1 Inspector	Date:	02/02/2018
Witness:		Time:	13:08
		Photo #:	18
Description:	Continued from Photo #17 facing downstream.		





From: [James Boston](#)
To: [Water-Inspection-Report](#)
Subject: Decatur AR Inspection Report
Date: Tuesday, July 31, 2018 1:56:22 PM
Attachments: [Scan0149.pdf](#)

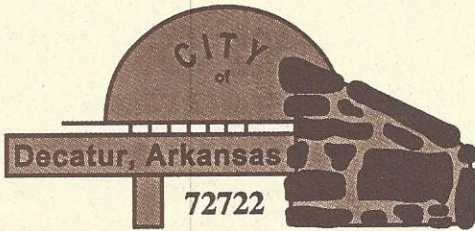
Mr. Bolenbaugh,

I have attached the Decatur Inspection follow up response letter. I have also attached two photo's of the lift stations that we have that were cleaned out last week. All of our lift stations were cleaned with a vacuum truck, and we hope to do this annually.

Please contact me at Decatur City Hall, phone number 479-752-3912 with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

James Boston
Public Works Manager
City of Decatur



310 Maple Avenue • Box 247
Phone: (479) 752-3912

July 30, 2018

Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
Office of Water Quality Compliance Branch
5301 Northshore Drive
North Little Rock AR 72118-5317

RE: Decatur AR WWTP Inspection Response. AFIN: 04-00052, Permit No: AR0022292.

Dear Mr. Bolenbaugh,

This letter is in response to Mr. Grimes inspection, I will answer the questions under the Summary of Findings in the order the responses were listed. I would like to note that the Decatur WWTP is under a construction permit and substantial completion is expected to be the end of December 2018...

1. The sludge press does not fit all the way on the containment area due to the location of a pond to the south of the machine. Some of the dewatered sludge does not fall in the containment area due to the length of the sludge press. The press was not designed for this area; however, it was necessary to handle the amount of biosolids the plant is currently producing. There is no liquid sludge falling outside the containment area and the solids that do fall on the area outside the contained area are cleaned up every day and the unit is not run during rain fall events. The solution to this problem is coming. We have ordered through our plant expansion plans a new Screw Press that will be located inside the building where the old outdated sludge processing machine is located. The expansion schedule shows the new Screw Press going into service in September of this year and the rented belt press going away. A roof is also scheduled to be put up over the containment area to prevent unwanted rainwater going into the plant and to ensure biosolids are contained and kept dry.
2. The dumpster at the headworks that we put the trash or screenings from the influent to the plant, is leaking due to a split in the dumpster, and a missing plug. We are trying to get a newer dumpster, if we cannot we will start putting liners in the dumpsters to prevent any leakage. This dumpster is under a roof. In the meantime, we are making sure waste bags are tied securely and any debris is kept swept up.

I will address the lift station inspection that Mr. Grimes did the day after the plant inspection in the order of the comments...

1. We do have grease in our lift stations from time to time and probably most of the time, we have and continue to try various products on the market to keep it under control. We have been vary

fortunate that we have not had trouble due to grease. With that said, on July 26th we had a company come in and completely clean and remove all debris from our 5 lift stations and two at the treatment plant. This is the first time we have been able to do this but we hope to continue this on an annual basis. I will try to attach with this report or send them in separately a few photos of the completed work last week. I do wish we could have done this long before now, it is going to make a huge difference in lift station appearance and maintenance

2. Lift station number one does have an alarm on it as do all lift stations along with redundant pumps. We have spent a lot of money the past couple of years and we feel like our lift stations are better than most. Lift station #1 however is difficult to make the alarm go off during a test situation. We will get this fixed to be able to show that the alarm is working for the next inspection. I would like to note that as the money is available we are putting on each station a SCADA that notifies us during a power loss, high level and other situations. So far, we only have this on our busiest lift station number 4.

I will address the Summary of Findings related to Mr. Grimes effluent sampling report in the order listed...

1. We are having difficulty with our effluent limits especially ammonia and fecal coliform due to flows above plant design. Ammonia problems are caused in our case by not enough treatment time. We are currently under a CAO and doing our best to keep ammonia as low as possible. Our plant expansion will deal with this by giving us increased capacity along with doubling our aeration time and horsepower available to aerate.
2. I addressed the influent trash dumpster above. We will get this solved, and it is under roof already. The next note had to do with our ponds and vegetation. Two weeks ago, we had a company come in and spray our pond banks with aquatic weed killer. This fall we will go in and remove the dead vegetation, and trees from the pond banks. Due to the daily battle of our compliance issues, and the lack of use of the ponds they have gotten overgrown. We will address this problem.
3. Phosphorus sampling by our testing lab along with nitrates are sometimes done more often than they should. We are working with our testing lab to have them better watch the instructions on the chain of custody. As far as reporting it on the DMR, since we have went to NETDMR I do not know and have ask how to report an extra day or two of sampling of these two nutrients. Please advise because it looks like I can only report two days a week or three days a week. If I sample one extra time during a week I would be wrong reporting three times per week. Please advise on how to fix this please.
4. The last two comments have been addressed. We are working on the dumpster issue at the headworks to insure this is not a problem. The solids around the SBR have been picked up. With all the construction going on we are being extra vigilant on anything from the wastewater steam being outside of the plant.

The Decatur WWTP has been challenged for the last couple of years for sure. We feel like our expansion to an MBR plant will enable us to discharge a great effluent to our receiving stream. Unfortunately, it takes a lot of time from engineering to construction. At the end of 2018 we should be expanded and completely in compliance, shortly after completion, with our permit. In the mean time we will continue to work toward permit compliance.

I would like to note also that I did not receive the inspection report until July 24th. I do not know what route the documents took getting to me.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at phone number 479-752-3912.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Boston". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "B".

James Boston
Public Works Manager
City of Decatur



Decatur
Lift Station #5



Decatur
Lift Station #4