



# ARKANSAS

## ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

March 9, 2023

Robert Tharp, Mayor

City of Decatur

PO Box 247

Decatur, AR 72722

Via email to: [bobtharp@decaturarkansas.us](mailto:bobtharp@decaturarkansas.us) & [james.boston@decaturarkansas.us](mailto:james.boston@decaturarkansas.us)

**RE: City of Decatur WWTP Inspection (Benton Co)**

**AFIN: 04-00052**

**NPDES Permit No.: AR0022292**

Honorable Mayor Tharp:

On April 14, 2023, 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. This case has been referred directly to the Office of Water Quality - Enforcement Branch for further review.**

If I can be of any assistance, please contact me at [garrett.grimes@adeq.state.ar.us](mailto:garrett.grimes@adeq.state.ar.us) or (501) 837-2067.


Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Garrett Grimes'.

Garrett Grimes

Inspector, Office of Water Quality

5301 Northshore Drive, North Little Rock, AR, 72118

 <p><b>ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY</b></p>	<b>OFFICE OF WATER QUALITY INSPECTION REPORT</b>				
	AFIN: <b>04-00052</b>	PERMIT #: <b>AR0022292</b>	DATE: <b>4/14/2023</b>		
	COUNTY: <b>04 Benton</b>	PDS #: <b>125700</b>	MEDIA: <b>WN</b>		
	GPS LAT: <b>36.34417</b> LONG: <b>-94.47271</b> LOCATION: <b>General Area</b>				
<b>FACILITY INFORMATION</b>		<b>INSPECTION INFORMATION</b>			
NAME: <b>City of Decatur WWTP</b> LOCATION: <b>985 Austin Avenue</b> CITY: <b>Decatur</b>		FACILITY TYPE: <b>1 - Municipal</b> INSPECTOR ID#: <b>104111 S - State</b> FACILITY EVALUATION RATING: <b>1 - Unsatisfactory</b> INSPECTION TYPE: <b>Reconnaissance</b>			
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL</b>		DATE(S): <b>4/14/2023</b> ENTRY TIME: <b>09:45</b> EXIT TIME: <b>10:45</b> PERMIT EFFECTIVE DATE: <b>11/30/2020</b> PERMIT EXPIRATION DATE: <b>11/30/2025</b>			
NAME: / TITLE <b>Robert Tharp / Mayor</b> COMPANY: <b>City of Decatur</b> MAILING ADDRESS: <b>PO Box 247</b> CITY, STATE, ZIP: <b>Decatur AR 72722</b> PHONE & EXT: / FAX: <b>479-752-3912</b> / EMAIL: <b>james.boston@decaturarkansas.us</b>		FAYETTEVILLE SHALE RELATED: <b>N</b> FAYETTEVILLE SHALE VIOLATIONS: <b>N</b>			
CONTACTED DURING INSPECTION: <b>No</b>		<b>INSPECTION PARTICIPANTS</b>			
		NAME/TITLE/PHONE/FAX/EMAIL/ETC.: <b>James Boston, Public Works Director, City of Decatur;                  Garrett Grimes, District 1 Inspector, DEQ</b>			
<b>AREA EVALUATIONS</b>					
(S=Satisfactory, M=Marginal, U=Unsatisfactory, N=Not Applicable/Evaluated)					
**	PERMIT	**	FLOW MEASUREMENT	**	STORMWATER
**	RECORDS/REPORTS	**	LABORATORY	**	FACILITY SITE REVIEW
**	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE	**	EFFLUENT/RECEIVING WATER	**	SELF-MONITORING PROGRAM
**	SAMPLING	**	SLUDGE HANDLING/DISPOSAL	**	PRETREATMENT
**	OTHER:				
<b>SUMMARY OF FINDINGS</b>					
<p>The following violation was noted during the inspection:</p> <p>There has been an unpermitted discharge of wastewater treatment residuals (i.e., sludge) from the treatment plant. This is a violation of Part 1, A of the permit.</p>					
<b>GENERAL COMMENTS</b>					
<p>On April 14, 2023, I performed a reconnaissance inspection in response to a complaint alleging solids associated with wastewater treatment accumulating downstream of the City of Decatur WWTP. I observed treatment residuals accumulating near a bridge over Columbia Hollow Creek downstream of the treatment plant (Photos #1 - #4; Attachment 1). These were not observed upstream of the treatment plant (Photos #5 - #6; Attachment 1). I was unable to access the plant directly during the inspection due to the facility being closed and personnel absent, but a voicemail was left with the number posted at the facility with my contact information and reason for the site visit.</p> <p>Following my departure from the permitted area, I was contacted by James Boston with the City of Decatur. I explained my observations to Mr. Boston and he stated that the city was aware of a release that occurred due to a hydraulic overload during a heavy storm resulting in partially treated wastewater overflowing the plant and entering the receiving stream. Mr. Boston stated that this was reported electronically to the DEQ - Office of Water Quality - Enforcement Branch (Attachment 2). Previous observations of overflows at the City of Decatur WWTP have been referred to the Enforcement Branch and the City of Decatur is considering upgrades to the treatment plant in order to adequately address the flows received at the facility. Details from this inspection will be forwarded to the Enforcement Branch for further review.</p>					

INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: <i>Garrett Grimes</i>	Garrett Grimes	DATE: 4/14/2023
SUPERVISOR'S SIGNATURE: <i>Kerri McCabe</i>	Kerri McCabe	DATE: 5/8/2023

**Office of Water Quality Photographic Evidence Sheet**

Location:	<b>City of Decatur WWTP</b>		
Photographer:	<b>Garrett Grimes, District 1 Inspector</b>	Date:	<b>4/14/2023</b>
Witness:		Time:	<b>9:52</b>
		Photo #:	<b>1</b>
Description:	<b>Wastewater treatment residuals accumulating adjacent to Columbia Hollow Creek downstream of the Decatur Wastewater Treatment Plant.</b>		



Photographer:	<b>Garrett Grimes, District 1 Inspector</b>	Date:	<b>4/14/2023</b>
Witness:		Time:	<b>9:53</b>
		Photo #:	<b>2</b>
Description:	<b>Continued from Photo #1.</b>		



**Office of Water Quality Photographic Evidence Sheet**

Location:	<b>City of Decatur WWTP</b>		
Photographer:	<b>Garrett Grimes, District 1 Inspector</b>	Date:	<b>4/14/2023</b>
Witness:		Time:	<b>9:55</b>
		Photo #:	<b>3</b>
Description:	<b>Continued from Photo #1.</b>		

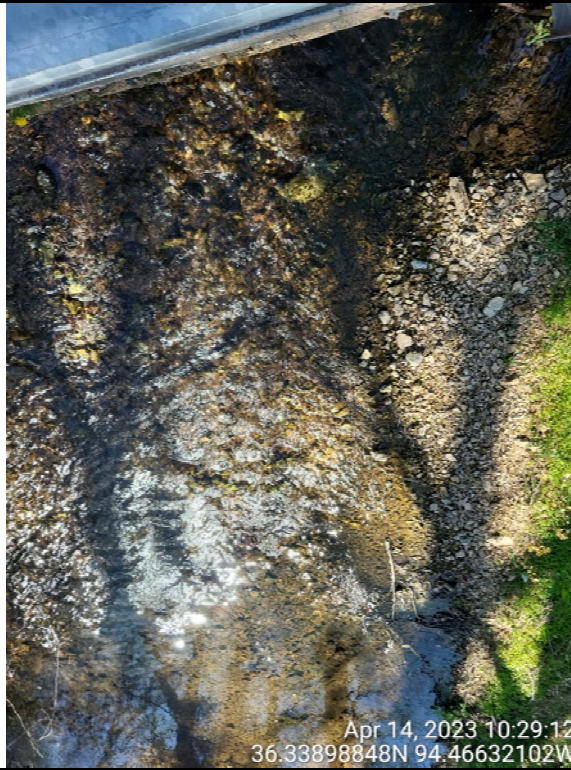


Photographer:	<b>Garrett Grimes, District 1 Inspector</b>	Date:	<b>4/14/2023</b>
Witness:		Time:	<b>9:54</b>
		Photo #:	<b>4</b>
Description:	<b>Continued from Photo #1.</b>		



**Office of Water Quality Photographic Evidence Sheet**

Location:	<b>City of Decatur WWTP</b>		
Photographer:	<b>Garrett Grimes, District 1 Inspector</b>	Date:	<b>4/14/2023</b>
Witness:		Time:	<b>10:29</b>
		Photo #:	<b>5</b>
Description:	<b>Upstream of the wastewater treatment plant.</b>		



Photographer:	<b>Garrett Grimes, District 1 Inspector</b>	Date:	<b>4/14/2023</b>
Witness:		Time:	<b>10:29</b>
		Photo #:	<b>6</b>
Description:	<b>Continued from Photo #5.</b>		



Attachment 1. Map show upstream and downstream location.

