

Thomas Harrington (adpce.ad)

From: Terry Long <eswwtp@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2023 2:29 PM
To: Thomas Harrington (adpce.ad)
Cc: Simon Wiley
Subject: AR 0021865 Update

Mr. Harrington,

It was a pleasure talking to you earlier today. Per our conversation, here is a description of the three events that transpired on the morning of September 20, 2023 at the wastewater treatment plant in Eureka Springs.

Event #1 - Our Sequential Batch Reactor #2 (SBR#2) basin overflowed. Although 100% certain of the time it began, based on flow and operational data, we believe that the overflow began about 00:38 AM September 20, 2023 and lasted until 06:45 AM September 20, 2023. This overflow event appears to have been caused by either the pressure transducer, which is used to control the water levels in the SBR basins, either quit working or stopped communicating with the computer that controls the system which resulted in the influent flow valve not being closed, thus allowing influent to continue to flow into the basin. Because our other SBR basin continued to operate properly, we estimate that for the time SBR#2 was overflowing, that the overflow rate was about 700 Gallons per Minute for a total overflow volume of 260,000 gallons. When I arrived at work at 6:40 AM, I saw the overflow event and immediately began taking steps to stop the event and before 6:45 AM when I looked at my watch, the overflow had stopped. When other workers arrived, we began the tasks of picking up and disposing of items that had been washed out of the basin and covering the area with lime. The impact of this event is that a portion of our mixed liquor suspended solids got washed into our receiving stream, but because of the rainfall that we were experiencing the receiving stream was up making it very difficult, if not impossible, to find any effects of this overflow event.

Event #2 - Our main lift station overflowed. Based on influent flow data, it appears that due to extremely high I & I caused by heavy rains, that about 1:00 AM September 20, 2023, the influent flow rate increased to a level that our main lift station was unable to keep up and overflowed and this overflow event lasted until about 3:30 AM September 20, 2023. Although we can not be certain, it appears that a portion of this overflow entered our receiving stream. Although we can not be certain, we estimate that this overflow was about 200 gallons per minute. When other workers arrived, we began the tasks of picking up and disposing of items that had been washed out of the basin and covering the area with lime. The impact of this event is that a quantity of raw, untreated wastewater entered our receiving stream, but because this overflow was the result of high flows caused by I & I, the concentration of wastewater was significantly less than normal,

Event #3 - We had to bypass one piece of equipment used to treat the wastewater. Because due to extremely high I & I flows we had already experienced an overflow at our main lift station and to avoid another overflow, at 7:15 AM on September 20, 2023 we diverted the incoming wastewater around the primary bar screen, and our Lakeside equipment which in turn allows us to bypass the main lift station. This bypass doesn't have a huge negative effect on our treatment process, as the influent still flows through a grit chamber for grit removal and a secondary bar screen for removal of floatable materials, like the Lakeside equipment does. At 7:15 AM on September 21, 2023, as a result of decreased influent flows, the influent flow was rerouted back through the primary bar screen, and our Lakeside equipment and the main lift station.

Mr. Harrington, I believe you also asked for an update on our pump issues that caused the initial washout of solids from our treatment plant. I am sorry to report that there hasn't been a lot of progress on that issue. At this time, we are unable to pull the pump for repairs because one of the valves that isolates the pump is broken and we are unable to fully close it to stop the flow of mixed liquor. We have been in touch with the local representative of the valve manufacturer to secure pricing and availability of a replacement valve so we can proceed with this project. I just got off the phone with the local representative again, asking them to expedite the quote process wherever possible. What may be the biggest hindrance with this project is that we will have to partially drain the SBR basin in question to allow this defective valve to be replaced.

I hope and trust that I have provided all the information you requested and need. If you require any additional information, please feel free to reach out and I will provide that as quickly as possible. I have made a note to continue to update you as we move forward with repairs to the pump.

Thank you,

Terry Long, Plant Manager
Eureka Springs WWTP
100 Highway 23 N.
Eureka Springs, AR 72632
479-253-7410 - Office
479-738-7035 - Cell
479-253-6974 - Fax
eswwtp@yahoo.com

Eureka Springs WWTP
Eureka Springs Public Works Dept.
3174 E. Van Buren
Eureka Springs, AR 72632
479-253-9600 - Office
479-253-6974 - Fax