



March 23, 2020

Ms. Danielle Harbin, Enforcement Analyst  
Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality  
5301 Northshore Drive  
North Little Rock, AR 72118-5317

Re: Mena Water Utilities  
NPDES Permit Number: AR0036692, AFIN-57-00423, CAO LIS 18-046  
Report of Unanticipated Bypass from WWTP and  
Explanation of Permit Exceedances

Dear Ms. Harbin:

An unanticipated bypass occurred at the Mena Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) beginning at 8:30 A.M. on March 20, 2020 and concluding at 8:30 A.M. on March 22, 2020. Approximately 10,000,000 gallons of partly treated wastewater were discharged during this event. Permit exceedances for Total Residual Chlorine (TRC) were also recorded at the WWTP during the month of March 2020.

As described by the Modified Corrective Action Plan (CAP - CAO LIS 18-046) submitted on February 28, 2019, the equalization capacity of Mena's wastewater treatment lagoons can be exhausted by the unusually high volume of I/I conveyed by their collection system during and immediately following wet weather events. The Interim Operations Plan in the CAP describes steps that Mena must take to protect their WWTP until a long-term solution to this problem can be identified and implemented. To prevent damage from lagoon overflow, a bypass valve that directs partly treated wastewater from Lagoon #2 to a point near Outfall #1 must be opened. During these events, Mena records the volume bypassed and collects samples from the bypass stream for analysis. Copies of the laboratory results related to this unanticipated bypass will be provided separate from this notification.

Hawkins-Weir Engineers, Inc. (HWEI) submitted a Wastewater Treatment Master Plan to DEQ on behalf of the City of Mena per the terms of their CAO (CAO LIS 18-046). The City is in the process of identifying funding sources and performing a Site Selection Study for the construction of a new wastewater treatment facility. The existing facility's peak flow capacity limitations will be addressed through the proposed treatment facility improvements recommended in the Master Plan and/or through collection system improvements identified in the City's SSES report prepared by others. Unanticipated bypasses could continue at Mena's existing WWTP until construction of the proposed improvements are completed. As identified in the Master Plan, construction of the new wastewater treatment facility is scheduled to be complete in November 2023.

110 So. 7th Street • P.O. Box 648 • Van Buren, AR 72957 • Ph: (479) 474-1227 • Fax: (479) 474-8531  
211 Natural Resources Drive • Little Rock, AR 72205 • Ph: (501) 374-4846  
438 East Millisap Road • Suite 107 • Fayetteville, AR 72703 • Ph: (479) 455-2206  
403 Garrison Avenue • Suite 101 • Fort Smith, AR 72901 • (479) 242-4685

[www.hawkins-weir.com](http://www.hawkins-weir.com)



Ms. Danielle Harbin  
Page 2  
March 23, 2020

Mena's treatment process currently does not include a means of dechlorinating to control TRC. As referenced in the City of Mena's Quarterly Progress Report #1 submitted to DEQ on March 3, 2020, the City is currently taking steps toward achieving compliance with TRC limits. HWEI is currently preparing a construction permit application and designing improvements to the disinfection system at the existing WWTP that will allow Mena to achieve consistent compliance with TRC limits. Construction of these interim TRC improvements is scheduled to be complete by August 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

HAWKINS-WEIR ENGINEERS, INC.

  
Adrian J. Kaufman, P.E.

AJK/oab

cc: Mr. Charles Pitman, Mena Water Utilities General Manager  
Mr. Mike Spencer, Mena Water Utilities Wastewater Superintendent

The following information has been sent.

### CONFIRMATION NUMBER

**d73ed5cc-1831-46b3-ab5a-64083e18dfaf**

(NOTE: You will need this number should you ever need to contact ADEQ concerning this report)

Date/Time Overflow Range

\*Date Overflow Began:

3/1/2020

\*Time:

12:00 am

Date Overflow Ended:

3/31/2020

Time:

12:00 am

Facility/Permit Information

\*Facility Name:

mena wwtp

\*Permit Number:

ar0036692

Location Information

Provide address and manhole number if numbered. Include where the overflow went into a yard, ditch, stream, storm sewer, building, or other. Be specific as possible.

no overflows March 2020

Description of Problem (check all items that apply)

Type of Overflow

Manhole Overflow  Lift Station Overflow  Main Line Overflow  Service Line Overflow  Other:

Cause of Overflow

I & I - Rainfall  Roots  Grease  Debris  Equipment Failure

Construction  Vandalism  Power Failure  Line Failure/Break  Other:

Volume of Overflow:

Impact of SSO Overflow Incident

Environmental Damage (check all items that apply)

OEHC - Observed or Evidence of Human Contact  OEEL - Observed or Evidence of Environmental Impact  
 EFK - Evidence of Fish Kill Manhole  NEAH - No Evidence of Adverse Health/Environmental Impact

Action Taken (check all items that apply)

Short term and long-term action, including clean-up and any plans to remediate I & I.

Machine Rodded  Jet-Vac  Hand Rodded  Used Generator to Power Pumps/Equipment  
 Disinfected and Deodorized  Hydro Cleaned  Spread Lime on Affected Area  Public Notification  Other:

Reported By

"I certify" under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

Name:

Mike

Title:

Spencer

Phone:

479-234-2592

Email a Copy of This Report to the Email Address:  
menawwtp@gmail.com

Additional Comments:  
no sso march