



July 15, 2022

EMAIL

Ms. Jill Gray, Enforcement Analyst  
Arkansas Division of Environmental Quality  
5301 Northshore Drive  
North Little Rock, AR 72118-5317

Re: NPDES Permit Number: AR0036692, AFIN: 57-00423, CAO LIS 18-046-001  
Progress Report No. 11 – Effluent Limits Compliance  
HWEI Project No. 2020024

Dear Ms. Gray:

The City of Mena, Arkansas, has agreed to provide quarterly progress reports detailing the progress made towards final compliance with their effluent requirements, per the Order and Agreement Section of CAO LIS 18-046-001. We offer the following update as Progress Report No. 11:

- During the reporting period, the City has continued a full-scale peracetic acid (PAA) pilot study at their existing Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) to evaluate its effectiveness for achieving consistent final effluent compliance with Fecal Coliform Bacteria and Total Residual Chlorine. The City was granted a one-year variance extension by DEQ to continue this trial until their Construction Permit and Revoke and Reissue Permit applications can be approved. These approvals will allow for a permanent PAA disinfection system to be installed at their existing WWTP. On June 8, 2022, the City received a copy of the pre-draft NPDES permit that includes residual limits for PAA.
- On May 5, 2022, the City of Mena met with USDA RD to review the loan and grant funding obligations and letter of conditions for the proposed WWTP. The City executed the necessary funding obligation documents and the Letter of Intent to Meet Conditions. USDA RD Loan Closing will not occur until the conclusion of design for the proposed WWTP.
- On June 15, 2022, USDA RD approved the engineering agreement between the City of Mena and Hawkins-Weir for the design of the new WWTP.
- The City of Mena has contracted with HW to perform a Sewer Rate Study. This study will ensure sewer revenues are sufficient to pay for operation and maintenance expenses, fund necessary reserve accounts, and pay debt service with a minimum coverage of 110%.
- The City of Mena is currently applying for local interim financing to fund design phase services for the proposed WWTP.
- Now that project funding has been secured, the City intends to submit a modification request to their Corrective Action Plan milestone schedule.

Respectfully Submitted,

HAWKINS-WEIR ENGINEERS, INC.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Wesley J. LeMonier'.

Wesley J. LeMonier, P.E.

WJL/gch

cc: Mr. James Looney, Mena Water Utilities General Manager  
Mr. Mike Spencer, Mena Water Utilities Wastewater Superintendent