



January 11, 2023

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. 13 – Effluent Limits Compliance  
HWEI Project No. 2020024

Dear Ms. Gray:

The City of Mena, Arkansas, has agreed to provide quarterly 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. 13:

- ADEQ issued a new NPDES permit for the City of Mena's Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) on November 28, 2022. The permit includes a peracetic acid (PAA) residual limit. Chlorine is no longer utilized for disinfection; therefore, a residual limit was removed from the NPDES permit requirements.
- The City 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 Sewer Rate Study is complete, and the City passed the proposed sewer rates by ordinance on January 10, 2023. The recommended sewer rate increases are substantial, and for that reason the rate increases will be implemented in two (2) phases. The first increase will go into effect on July 1, 2023, and the second increase will go into effect on July 1, 2024.
- A Kickoff Meeting for the Design Phase of the new WWTP was conducted on October 27, 2022.
- A Preliminary Basis of Design has been developed for the proposed WWTP and one (1) of the suitable vendors presented available treatment technologies to meet the City of Mena's treatment needs on December 7, 2022.
- The City has scheduled a meeting with DEQ to discuss design alternatives and to request changes to the CAO's 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

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 Millsap Road • Suite 200 • Fayetteville, AR 72703 • Ph: (479) 455-2206  
403 Garrison Avenue • Suite 101 • Fort Smith, AR 72901 • Ph: (479) 242-4685