



July 12, 2023

EMAIL

Ms. Kristen Graham, Compliance 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. 15 – Effluent Limits Compliance
HWEI Project No. 2020024

Dear Ms. Graham:

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. 15:

- 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 went into effect on July 1, 2023, and the second increase will go into effect on July 1, 2024.
- A 100% (Final) set of Construction Drawings and Project Specifications have been developed for the proposed WWTP, and are being transmitted to the Arkansas Department of Health for review today (7/12/23).
- The City intends to request changes to the CAO's milestone schedule.

Respectfully Submitted,

HAWKINS-WEIR ENGINEERS, INC.

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

Wesley J. LeMonier, P.E.

WJL/mcw

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