

December 11, 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. 16 – 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. 16:

- 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 for the proposed WWTP were transmitted to the Arkansas Department of Health for review. The ADH approval of Construction Drawings and Project Specifications is anticipated to be received in December 2023.
- The City has submitted their Construction Permit application (Submission ID: HPW-1HDH-5NN4C) to DEQ and will need this approval prior to commencing construction for the proposed WWTP.
- The City intends to request changes to the CAO's milestone schedule.

Respectfully Submitted,

HAWKINS-WEIR ENGINEERS, INC.

Wesley J. LeMonier, P.E.

WJL/mcw

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