



May 9, 2019

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

Re: NPDES Permit Number: AR0036692, AFIN-57-00423
Report of Unanticipated Bypass from WWTP

Dear Ms. Taylor:

An unanticipated bypass occurred at the Mena WWTP beginning at 8:30 am on April 3, 2019 and concluding at 8:30 am on April 5, 2019. Approximately 8,000,000 gallons of partly treated wastewater were discharged during this event.

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 the City 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, the City 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. is in the process of preparing a Wastewater Treatment Masterplan that will identify a solution to the facility's peak flow capacity limitation. Per the terms of the Modified CAP, a copy of that report will be submitted to ADEQ by no later than September 1, 2019. Unanticipated bypasses could continue at the Mena WWTP until construction of the recommended improvements are completed by June 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

HAWKINS-WEIR ENGINEERS, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aaron Benzing', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Aaron M. Benzing, P.E.

AMB/hcd

cc: Mr. Charles Pitman, Mena Water Utilities General Manager

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HW HAWKINS & WEIR
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211 Natural Resources Drive • Little Rock, AR 72205

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