

# **HW** HAWKINS WEIR ENGINEERS, INC.

*Engineering Client Success*

November 26, 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 November 13, 2019 and concluding at 8:30 am on November 14, 2019. Approximately 5,000,000 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. submitted a Wastewater Treatment Master Plan to DEQ on behalf of the City of Mena per the terms of their CAO (CAO LIS 18-046). The City is in the process of identifying funding sources for the construction of a new wastewater treatment facility. The existing facility's peak flow capacity limitations will be addressed through the proposed treatment facility improvements recommended in the Master Plan and/or collection system improvements being performed by others. Unanticipated bypasses could continue at Mena's existing WWTP until construction of the proposed improvements are completed. As identified in the Master Plan, construction of the new wastewater treatment facility is scheduled to be complete in November 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

HAWKINS-WEIR ENGINEERS, INC.

  
Adrian J. Kaufman, P.E.

AJK/slh

cc: Mr. Charles Pitman, Mena Water Utilities General Manager  
Mr. Mike Spencer, Mena Water Utilities Wastewater Superintendent

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