



August 13, 2020

EMAIL

Ms. Danielle Harbin, Enforcement Analyst  
Arkansas Division of Environmental Quality  
5301 Northshore Drive  
North Little Rock, AR 72118-5317

Re: Mena Water Utilities  
NPDES Permit Number: AR0036692, AFIN-57-00423, CAO LIS 18-046  
Report of Unanticipated Bypass from WWTP

Dear Ms. Harbin:

An unanticipated bypass occurred at the Mena Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) beginning at approximately 5:00 P.M. on August 12, 2020.

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 Mena 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, Mena records the volume bypassed and collects samples from the bypass stream for analysis. The total duration, total volume, and 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 the Division of Environmental Quality 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 and has recently selected a site 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 through collection system improvements identified in the City's SSES report prepared 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/oab

cc: Mr. Charles Pitman, 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

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[www.hawkins-weir.com](http://www.hawkins-weir.com)