

Seth F. Smith
Mayor

Kacie Rose
City Clerk/Treasurer

Patrick C. McDaniel
City Attorney



CITY OF MENA
520 Mena Street
Mena, AR 71953

Council
Andy Brown
Stan Craig
Dwight Douglas
Mary Alice Head
Larry Stewart
James Earl Turner

August 1, 2023

Mr. Richard C. Healey, Enforcement Branch Manager
Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
5301 Northshore Drive
North Little Rock, AR 72118-5317

Re: NPDES Permit Number: AR0036692, AFIN: 57-00423, CAO LIS 18-046 & 18-046-001
Amendment to Milestone Schedule
HWEI Project No. 2020024

Dear Mr. Healey:


Per your email on July 17, 2023, the City of Mena will not achieve final compliance by December 1, 2023, as outlined in the current milestone schedule. DEQ has asked that the City submit a revised milestone schedule and new final compliance date. This correspondence is offered by the City to provide the updated milestone schedule as well as providing an explanation for the delays in meeting the previous final compliance date of December 1, 2023.

The enclosed Milestone Schedule was developed in conjunction with our engineer, Hawkins-Weir Engineers, Inc., and includes deadlines for the construction of a new wastewater treatment facility which is required to achieve final compliance. It is our opinion that the identified tasks will help the City achieve final compliance by August 1, 2026.

The City has continued to make progress toward final compliance and met all required deadlines through item 3.3.J of the current milestone schedule. At that point, the City began experiencing unanticipated delays that were beyond our control. The Covid-19 Pandemic was the primary cause of the delays as it resulted in longer than anticipated review times during the funding phase, delays during the design phase, and significant cost increases that resulted in the City having to pursue project funding through multiple sources. Additionally, the primary funding source, USDA Rural Development, continues to experience staffing shortages which has also resulted in delays in the review and approvals required to bid the construction project.

We respectfully request that DEQ amend the milestone schedule per the enclosed Final Compliance Milestone Schedule.

Sincerely,


Seth Smith, Mayor

Enclosures: City of Mena AR Final Compliance Milestone Schedule

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



Milestone Schedule
Mena Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements
City of Mena, Arkansas
Project No. 2020024
August 2023



Project Milestone	Scheduled Date of Completion
Design Phase	
Submit Plans for USDA and ADH Review	July 2023
Submit NPDES Permit Application and Construction Permit Application	July 2023
Receive USDA Approval to Bid	December 2023
Receive Construction Permit from DEQ	January 2024
Bidding Phase	
Bid Advertisement	January 2024
Bid Opening	February 2024
Bid Award	March 2024
Construction Phase	
Receive NPDES Permit	July 2024
Notice to Proceed Construction Issued	July 2024
Construction Final Completion	June 2026
Final Compliance*	August 2026

*In accordance with the CAO, Effluent Limits Compliance Progress Reports will continue to be submitted every three (3) months until final compliance.