

April 28, 2022

EMAIL

Mrs. Sarah Pierce, 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
HWEI Project No. 2020024

Dear Mrs. Pierce:

An unanticipated bypass occurred at the Mena Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) beginning at 7:00 A.M. on April 25, 2022, and concluding at 7:00 A.M. on April 28, 2022. Approximately 15,000,000 gallons of partly treated wastewater were discharged during this event.

As described in the Modified Corrective Action Plan (CAP - CAO LIS 18-046) submitted to the Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) 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. Copies of the laboratory results related to this unanticipated bypass will be provided separate from this notification.

As referenced in the City's Effluent Limits Compliance Quarterly Progress Report No. 10 submitted to the DEQ on April 5, 2022, the City is continuing to make progress toward constructing a new activated sludge wastewater treatment facility. The existing facility's peak flow capacity limitations will be addressed through the proposed treatment facility improvements and 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. An updated milestone schedule for the final design and construction of the proposed treatment facility will be developed once project funding is secured.

Respectfully Submitted,

HAWKINS-WEIR ENGINEERS, INC.


Adrian J. Kaufman, P.E.

AJK/snt

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