

NON-COMPLIANCE REPORT

**Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
Office of Water Quality – Enforcement Branch
5301 Northshore Drive
North Little Rock, AR 72118**

RE: Permit No: AR0042846 **Discharge Number:** Outfall 002
Facility: Ash Grove Cement Company
Address: 4343 Highway 108
City: Foreman **State:** Arkansas **Zip:** 71836
Contact: Craig McMahon **Phone:** 870-542-3020

Date of Non-Compliance	Parameter Exceeded	Quantity or Loading	Quality or Concentration	Permit Limits
8/17/2020	pH >9.0	9.1	pH	Maximum Limit: 9.0

We feel this problem was due to:

~~This outfall did not have any flow for over two months prior to the August sampling, and a few days before the August sampling event, a massive rain storm hit. It dumped 5-8 inches of rain in a matter of hours. Ash Grove operates a cement plant, and cement dust is naturally alkaline. While Ash Grove does its best to minimize dust emissions from the plant, it is possible that dust from the plant, a nearby highway, and a gravel county road settled in the pond that feeds Outfall 002. With no flow to naturally purge this dust, the levels built up to the point that the pH was greatly affected. In addition, the massive rainstorm previously mentioned could have washed additional dust that had settled on the ground near the pond that feeds Outfall 002, causing additional dust loadings to be in the outfall. A TSS of 11.0 mg/L was recorded for the August 17th sampling event, while this was below the daily maximum limit of 50 mg/L in Ash Grove's NPDES permit, it is the highest recorded TSS value for Outfall 002 for 2020. In addition, pH testing from January through May of 2020 (the months Outfall 002 has been shown to be flowing) yielded an average pH of 7.74 S.U. with no individual values above 8.0 S.U. and pH testing from 2019 yielded an average of 7.85 S.U. with no individual values above 7.9 S.U. Based on recent testing history, the high pH event from August 17th was most likely a one-off event. Based on the aforementioned TSS sample and pH records, Ash Grove believes that this was the mostly likely cause for the high pH.~~


We plan on correcting the problem in this manner:

~~The outfall was retested for pH on 8/27/2020. The values recorded were below a pH of 9.0. This indicates that the problem has been corrected.~~

Time estimated that it will take to correct problem:

~~Problem is corrected. Ash Grove will continue to monitor the outfall, and the pond that feeds it, to prevent further degradation.~~

Sincerely,



9-3-20

Submitted By:

Date

Submitted electronically via NetDMR

Certification Statement: I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations. (Revised March 2016)