



ARKANSAS

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

February 23, 2022

Email: mayor@helena-westhelena.us
cityclerk@helena-westhelena.us

Honorable Kevin Smith, Mayor
Honorable Wanda Crockett, Council Member
Honorable Monica Davis, Council Member
Honorable Don Ethely, Council Member
Honorable Ever Jean Ford, Council Member
Honorable Chris Franklin, Council Member
Honorable Joe St. Columbia, Council Member

City of Helena-West Helena
P.O. Box 248
Helena-West Helena, AR 72342

**RE: NPDES Permit Number: AR0043389, AFIN: 54-00083
Sanitary Sewer Overflow and Request for Corrective Action Plan**

Dear Mayor Smith and the City of Helena-West Helena Council Members:

On February 17, 2022, the Division of Environmental Quality's Office of Water Quality (OWQ) received a complaint to the National Response Center of a sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) of raw sewage from a broken above-ground 12-inch sewage pipeline discharging onto the road and nearby wooded area at the Oak Forrest Subdivision in the City of Helena-West Helena. This SSO is an unpermitted discharge and is a violation of the Federal Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. §1311(a) et seq., Arkansas Water and Air Pollution Control Act, and the Ark. Code Ann. §§ 8-4-217(a)(2)–(3) and (b).

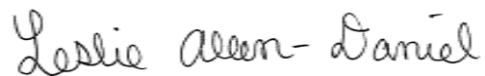
Recent information indicates this SSO of raw sewage has been occurring for some time. Raw sewage contains high levels of Fecal Coliform Bacteria and *E. coli*. Because of the on-going SSO, the close proximity to a residential neighborhood, an elementary school, and waters of the state, DEQ requests the following immediate actions:

- The City of Helena-West Helena shall immediately stop the SSO. This action may include, but not necessarily limited to, pumping and hauling the wastewater to an appropriate disposal facility, a temporary line until a permanent repair can be completed, or some other appropriate interim measure. Please provide an email notification to SSOADEQ@adeq.state.ar.us with photographs confirming the SSO discharge has stopped.
- Clean up the sewage, solids, and wastewater and disinfect the impacted areas.
- Report the SSO at DEQ's website at: <https://www.adeq.state.ar.us/water/enforcement/sso/submit.aspx?type=s>.

- The City of Helena-West Helena, **by the close of business on Friday, March 4, 2022**, shall submit a Corrective Action Plan (CAP), certified by a Professional Engineer, with a milestone schedule and expected date of completion that details the work that is being done or will be done to correct and identify the cause of this ongoing SSO. The CAP shall also include a SSO Action Plan that details the procedures for identifying, quantifying, documenting, and reporting of SSOs by the City.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at 501-682-0630, or at allen-daniel@adeq.state.ar.us.

Sincerely,



Leslie Allen-Daniel
Enforcement Coordinator
Office of Water Quality, DEQ
5301 Northshore Drive, North Little Rock, AR 72118

Cc: Terry Paul, Environmental Health Branch Chief, ADH, terry.paul@arkansas.gov
Stacie Wassell, Deputy Associate Director OWQ Wassell@adeq.state.ar.us
Richard Healey, OWQ Enforcement Branch Manager, healeyr@adeq.state.ar.us