



## Helena Municipal Water & Sewer

Owned and operated by the  
City of Helena-West Helena  
702 Cherry Street

Helena-West Helena, Arkansas 72342  
Office 870-572-6714 or 870-817-7460  
Fax 870-572-6545 or 870-338-7477

7-11-18

Leslie Allen-Daniel  
Enforcement Analyst  
ADEQ Office of Water Quality  
5301 Northshore Drive  
North Little Rock, Arkansas 72118-5317

Sent by Electronic & US First Class Mail

Subject: Updated Status Report of NPDES Permit Number AR0043389

Dear Ms. Allen-Daniel,

During the past 6 months, Helena has been dealing with some pump failures at our waste water treatment facility that caused a high-water condition and necessitated subsequent emergency repairs to our pumping discharge station. I wanted to update you as to the status and our plans moving forward.

We have made repairs to our primary discharge pump at LS 6 and are currently discharging at a rate of approximately 1.8 MM GPD. Repairs are in process of our Lead and Lag pumps at the LS to prevent this condition from reoccurring in the future. We have currently lowered water levels to approximate normal summer operating conditions. Due to the pump failure and high rainfall this past late winter and early spring, we have had a perfect storm develop which has affected the levee walls of the Helena Waste Water Treatment Facility.

In response to these conditions, Mayor Hollowell has requested some emergency funding from Governor Hutchinson for immediate exterior levee wall repairs within the next 90 days. The City Council approved Resolution 9-2018 on 7-5-18 (attached for review) to secure the funding necessary to complete these emergency repairs. I have also enclosed the letters submitted to Governor Hutchinson from Mayor Hollowell and the letter I sent to the Mayor requesting the funds for emergency repairs to the pond.

With Resolution 9-2018 adopted we are working with Smith & Weiland Engineering in Helena on developing a Scope of Work Plan in order that contractors may come in and bid on the emergency repairs needed. Once these repairs are completed, the City will focus on developing a long-range plan.

The Helena Water Department is currently working with ARWA and ADH evaluating our current water and sewer rate structure to determine a long-range plan for completing additional repairs to the system. The process will require an approval from the City Council on all proposed rate increases and then deciding upon and implementing the best approach for the City of Helena-West Helena Water moving forward.

We are working with Mr. John Edwards of the Helena Port Authority to secure outside grants for additional funding sources. We have applied through DRA and have pledged some matching funding and are working with ARWA to help access some of WEP Direct Loan and Grant funds available for FY 2018-2019. As you are aware, Phillips County Arkansas is on the updated list of persistent poverty counties identified in Arkansas and along with our LMI rating of approximately 62% are qualifying for some very affordable interest rates and grants for system upgrades and repairs.

We thank you for ADEQ's assistance during this time and appreciate all your department has done for Helena-West Helena. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best Regards,

Jack Ross  
General Manager  
Helena-West Helena Water Department

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