



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

- 870-817-7460 office
- 870-338-7477 fax

jross@hwhwater.com



CITY OF HELENA-WEST HELENA

June 21, 2018

The Honorable Asa Hutchinson
Governor of Arkansas
State Capitol
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Via email: christian.gonzalez@governor.arkansas.gov

SUBJECT: Request for Emergency Funding

Dear Governor Hutchinson:


Pursuant to our recent conversation at the Municipal League Conference last Thursday, I am formally submitting a request to you for emergency funding to be used to repair the exterior levee walls of our Helena waste water treatment ponds. We have an urgent and immediate need for assistance and a very narrow window of time during which repairs can be made before winter.

I am attaching supporting documentation from my Water Department General Manager Jack Ross, illustrating the critical state of the sewer ponds. We are in the process of soliciting funding for additional repairs to the interior levee walls, but it is imperative we first ensure the integrity of the exterior levees to avoid a breach. The estimated cost for this emergency repair is \$116,000.00

I appreciate your willingness to speak with me about this issue and thank for your consideration of my request. You may contact me at 870-662-1105 or by email at mayor@helena-westhelena.us.

I look forward to hearing back from you soon.

Respectfully,


Mayor Jay Hollowell
City of Helena-West Helena

With attachments

Jay Hollowell, Mayor Sandi Ramsey, City Clerk Andre Valley, City Attorney Derrick Turner, Treasurer

P: 870.817.7400 | F: 870.338.7250 | PO Box 248 | 226 Perry Street | Helena, AR 72342



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6-20-18

City of Helena-West Helena
Honorable Mayor Jay Hollowell
226 Perry Street
Helena, AR 72342

Subject: Emergency Funds for Helena WWTP Repairs

Dear Honorable Hollowell,

The Helena sewer treatment lagoons (hereinafter referred to as WWTP) serving the population of Helena, Arkansas have sustained severe structural damage to both the exterior and interior WWTP levees of the lagoons over this past severe winter. Extremes in both temperature and rainfall have, along with equipment failures at the WWTP, caused a dire situation with the structural integrity of Cell 3. This damage has occurred over a long period of time; however, this past winter has caused catastrophic deterioration of the exterior levee walls and immediate repairs must be implemented to safely operate the WWTP moving forward.

We are in the process of applying for additional funding sources with Delta Regional Authority to assist with long range levee wall repairs. We have contacted ARWA and are working with ARWA on a Rate Study for the water department to assess our current system needs from a funding standpoint and project repair costs to complete work on the WWTP. At this point in time, due to the severe structural damage to the outer levee wall of Cell 3, the WWTP is in desperate need of immediate Emergency Funding to make repairs to prevent failure of the levee system.

We currently have a limited window available to complete those repairs (approximately 90 days +/- available). We have been working with Smith & Weiland Engineering here in Helena to come up with an estimate on Emergency Repairs needed to allow the system to operate for another year without failure. Our best estimate is we need to repair immediately 800 LF of levee wall (see attached photos) and the estimated cost/LF is \$145.00. We are requesting an amount of \$116,000 to begin immediately making repairs to maintain the structural integrity of the Helena WWTP.

Attached to this report are the project narrative of the Helena WWTP needed repairs and what we are trying to schedule and get approved through our City Council. I have also attached emails that have been shared with ADEQ over the past 6 months as we have tried to address the problem in our WWTP. Also attached are photographs of the actual extent of the system damage to Cell 3 and the reason for the critical nature of request for these Emergency Funds.

If you have any further questions or need additional information do not hesitate to contact me.

Best Regards,



Jack Ross
General Manager
Helena-West Helena Water Department
jross@hwhwater.com
870-817-7460 o
870-338-7477 f
870-816-7917 c



Photo 1. Helena WWTP Aerial view of all cells

Photo 2. Helena WWTP South Wall Cell 3 Showing whole top of levee is gone





Photo 3. Helena WWTP Cell 3 South Wall Frontal View of Deterioration

Photo 4. Helena WWTP Cell 3 South Wall Anterior View





Photo 5. Helena WWTP Cell 3 South-west corner aerial view

Photo 6. Helena WWTP Cell 3 SW corner frontal aerial view





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May 10, 2018

Mr. Layne Pemberton
Enforcement Analyst
ADEQ Office of Water Quality
Mail
Enforcement Branch
5301 Northshore Drive
North Little Rock, Arkansas 72118-5317

Sent by Electronic & US First Class

Subject: Updated Status Report of NPDES Permit Number AR0043389

Dear Mr. Layne:

Since February of this year I have been keeping you posted on our challenges and progress as we work on the issues we have faced with Pump Station Number 6 and the high level in our Helena Treatment Ponds. We have made progress, but challenges remain.

Due to the excessive rains and the high levels in our ponds, it appears we experienced a brief overflow at Cell 3. Fortunately, the wall did not breach. The recent dry weather, along with the success of restoring one of our main pumps at Station Number 6, has allowed us to see measurable progress in lowering the levels of our ponds.

We are working with John C. Edwards of the Helena-West Helena/Phillips County Port Authority to secure grants to help replace the pumps at Station Number 6. On behalf of the City of Helena-West Helena, he has submitted a \$200,000.00 CDBG grant. He is now working with the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) to secure a \$400,000.00 grant, contingent upon approval of the Helena-West Helena City Council, to help rebuild the exterior treatment pond walls which are at high risk of breaching. This grant must be submitted to the DRA by the end of June.

It has been a year since I was appointed by Mayor Jay Hollowell to take responsibility of the Helena-West Helena water and sewer systems. I am committed to doing my best to

correct the issues we identify. It is challenging but rewarding work. I welcome your advice and assistance as we continue to move forward to have a safe and environmentally sound system.

I will continue to keep you apprised of our situation. Do not hesitate to contact me with any additional questions.

Best Regards,

Jack Ross

Jack Ross
General Manager
Helena-West Helena Water Department

Project Narrative

The sewer treatment lagoons serving the population of residents in Helena proper have sustained heavy damage to the exterior and interior containment levees. The damage resulted from excessively high stages in the pond cells for an extended period of time. The condition of the levees, and their viability and capacity to safely contain the raw sewage in the ponds has reached a very critical stage. The interior levees separating the cells have eroded to the point that there is no separation between three of the cells. This separation is necessary to achieve the retention time necessary to properly treat the effluent to within permitted limits before it is discharged to the Mississippi River. Of more concern, however, is the gross degradation of the outer containment levees that prevent the escape of raw sewage onto the surrounding land. These levees have eroded through the crown in some locations, and are in imminent danger of breaching.

To put the magnitude of this problem into perspective, there are approximately 18,000 LF of levee wall comprising the interior (both sides) and exterior levees. The Helena-West Helena Water Department (HW) has spent significant funds and undertaken substantial effort to rehabilitate the pumps required to discharge treated waste from the ponds and control the level of the water in the ponds. Applications have been submitted for funding to fully rehabilitate the pump station so that the excessive high pond stages that cause damage to the levees can be controlled.

HW is hereunder applying for funds to make emergency repairs to the outer levees of the treatment lagoons. This work takes priority over work to correct the interior levees as failure of the outer levees would result in significant environmental damages. A preliminary project cost estimate for this work, per linear foot (L.F.) of exterior levee is as follows:

DESCRIPTION	PRICE PER LINEAR FOOT
	\$ / L.F.
Clay fill – placed and compacted	50.00
“B” stone protection blanket & filter cloth	48.00
Clearing and grubbing, Re-turfing disturbed area	5.00
Allowance for outer structure repairs, mobilization & demobilization, erosion protection	20.00
Engineering planning, reports & approvals, design, bid coordination and construction engineering and observation	22.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED L.F. COST FOR EXTERIOR LEVEE REPAIRS*	USE \$145.00 / L.F.

**NOTE: The above estimate is based on our best judgement as to what the average cross sectional repair would require. This estimate should be considered as very general for planning and funding application purposes only.*

There is approximately 8,051 total linear feet of exterior levees. The level of damage to the outer levee varies. The total project funds that would be made available under this grant

application are approximately \$425,000. Obviously, this amount of funding will not repair all of the outer levees. Repairs will be made to the most damaged and dangerous sections of the levee to reduce the risk of those sections failing while HW pursues additional funding sources to repair the remaining exterior and interior levees and structures.

The above estimate may be conservative in that not all of the levee length is damaged to the average extent used for the estimate quantities. Detailed field measurements and surveys will be required to determine what sections will take priority and what the average LF cost to repair those sections will be. Sections of levee that are not as damaged will obviously cost less per LF.

The seriousness of this situation cannot be emphasized enough. HW respectfully requests your consideration of this important funding application.

DRAFT

Jack Ross

From: Pemberton, Layne <PEMBERTON@adeq.state.ar.us>
Sent: Thursday, March 01, 2018 3:41 PM
To: Jack Ross
Cc: benzenecollier@yahoo.com; odonabyjr@gmail.com; mayor@helena-westhelena.us; Helen Halbert; Jennefier Hudson
Subject: RE: Increased Discharge Flow for NPDES Permit Number AR0043389

Mr. Ross,
Thank you for the follow-up. Please keep me in the loop concerning this matter.

Thank you,

Layne Pemberton
Enforcement Analyst
ADEQ Office of Water Quality
Enforcement Branch
Phone: 501-682-0664
Fax: 501-682-0880
pemberton@adeq.state.ar.us



From: Jack Ross [mailto:jross@hwhwater.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 01, 2018 3:05 PM
To: Pemberton, Layne
Cc: benzenecollier@yahoo.com; odonabyjr@gmail.com; mayor@helena-westhelena.us; Helen Halbert; Jennefier Hudson
Subject: RE: Increased Discharge Flow for NPDES Permit Number AR0043389

Dear Mr. Layne,

While trying to lower our ponds due to excessive rain, we have had a motor failure on our discharge pump. The motor failed on 2-28-18 and we immediately installed a bypass pump on the system and as a result cannot measure flow rates as before. We estimate our discharge flow rate to be approximately 1500 GPM and are working to make repairs as quickly as possible. We will keep you informed of our progress and if you need any additional information do not hesitate to contact Benzene Collier or myself at the numbers listed below.

Again, thank you for all your assistance.

Best Regards,

Benzene Collier

Responsible Operator in Charge
cell 870-816-8246
Helena Municipal Water and Sewer Department

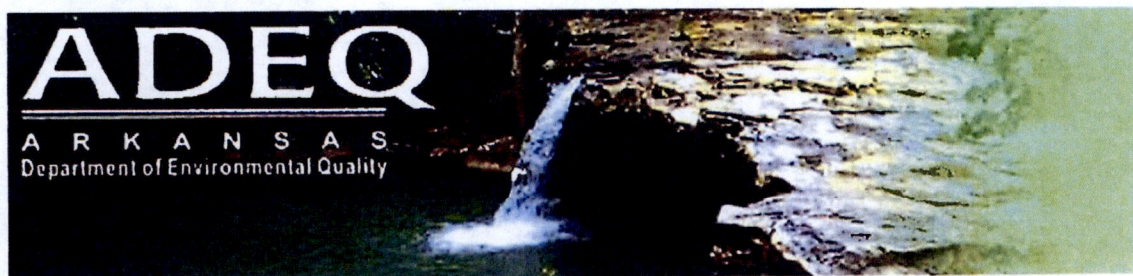
Jack Ross
General Manager Water Dept.
Helena-West Helena Arkansas
o 870-817-7460
c 870-816-7917
www.hwhwater.com
watergeneralmanager@helena-westhelena.us
jross@hwhwater.com

From: Pemberton, Layne [<mailto:PEMBERTON@adeq.state.ar.us>]
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2018 9:14 AM
To: Jack Ross <jross@hwhwater.com>
Cc: mayor@helena-westhelena.us; Jennefier Hudson <judson@hwhwater.com>; benzenecollier@yahoo.com;
odonabyjr@gmail.com
Subject: RE: Increased Discharge Flow for NPDES Permit Number AR0043389

Benzene,
Your report has been received. Please keep the Department informed of your progress.

Thank you,

Layne Pemberton
Enforcement Analyst
ADEQ Office of Water Quality
Enforcement Branch
Phone: 501-682-0664
Fax: 501-682-0880
pemberton@adeq.state.ar.us



From: Jack Ross [<mailto:jross@hwhwater.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 21, 2018 2:32 PM
To: Pemberton, Layne
Cc: mayor@helena-westhelena.us; Jennefier Hudson; benzenecollier@yahoo.com;
odonabyjr@gmail.com; Jack Ross
Subject: Increased Discharge Flow for NPDES Permit Number AR0043389
Importance: High

Dear Mr. Lane,

Over the past 4 weeks, we have received higher than usual amounts of rain. Our sanitary sewer system has infiltration of water from the storm sewer system. Over the past two months we have gone from draught conditions to flooding conditions along with extreme temperature fluctuations. This combination of events has caused a very high level in our Helena Treatment Ponds. Due to the high-water levels in our ponds we have had to open our discharge gates fully and are working on identifying storm water intrusion into the sanitary sewer system and checking all equipment pumping into and out of the ponds.

We are working to correct this issue as quickly as possible. We thank you for your assistance and if you need additional information do not hesitate to contact us at (o 870-817-7460) my cell 870-817-8246.

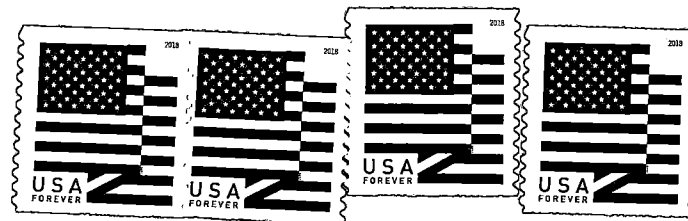
Again, thank you for all your assistance.

Best Regards,

Benzene Collier
Responsible Operator in Charge
Helena Municipal Water and Sewer Department

Jack Ross
General Manager Water Dept.
Helena-West Helena Arkansas
o 870-817-7460
c 870-816-7917
www.hwhwater.com
watergeneralmanager@helena-westhelena.us
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Leslie Allen-Daniel
Enforcement Analyst
ADEQ, Office of Water Quality
5301 Northshore Drive
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