

**AUTHORIZATION TO DISCHARGE WASTEWATER UNDER
THE NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM AND
THE ARKANSAS WATER AND AIR POLLUTION CONTROL ACT**

In accordance with the provisions of the Arkansas Water and Air Pollution Control Act (Ark. Code Ann. 8-4-101 et seq.), and the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.),

Little Rock Water Reclamation Authority
Adams Field Water Reclamation Facility

is authorized to discharge treated municipal wastewater from a facility located as follows: 1001 Temple Street, Little Rock, AR 72202, in Pulaski County.

Facility Coordinates: Latitude: 34° 44' 07" N; Longitude: 92° 12' 59" W


Receiving stream: Arkansas River in Segment 3C of the Arkansas River Basin.

The permitted outfall is located at the following coordinates:

Outfall 001: Latitude: 34° 44' 32" N; Longitude: 92° 12' 36" W

Discharge shall be in accordance with effluent limitations, monitoring requirements, and other conditions set forth in this permit. Per Part III.D.10, the permittee must re-apply 180 days prior to the expiration date below for permit coverage to continue beyond the expiration date.

Effective Date: June 1, 2024
Expiration Date: May 31, 2029


Digitally signed by Stacie R. Wassell
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Stacie R. Wassell
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Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment
Division of Environmental Quality

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Issue Date

PART I
PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

SECTION A. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS: OUTFALL 001 - treated municipal wastewater.

During the period beginning on the effective date and lasting until the date of expiration, the permittee is authorized to discharge from Outfall 001. Such discharges shall be limited and monitored by the permittee as specified below as well as Parts II and III. See Part IV for all definitions.

<u>Effluent Characteristics</u>	<u>Discharge Limitations</u>			<u>Monitoring Requirements</u>	
	Mass (lbs/day, else specified)	Concentration (mg/l, else specified)		Frequency	Sample Type
	Monthly Avg.	Monthly Avg.	7-Day Avg.		
Flow	N/A	Report, MGD	Report, MGD (Daily Max.)	once/day	totalizing meter
Overflows	monthly total SSOs (occurrences/month)			see comments ¹	
Overflow Volume	monthly total volume of SSOs (gallons/month)			see comments ¹	
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD ₅)					
(November – April)	9007.2	30	45	once/week	composite
Carbonaceous Biochemical Oxygen Demand (CBOD ₅)					
(May – October)	7506.0	25	40	once/week	composite
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	9007.2	30.0	45.0	once/week	composite
Ammonia Nitrogen (NH ₃ -N)					
(May – October)	3572.9	11.9	29.7	three/week	composite
Fecal Coliform Bacteria (FCB)	(MPN or colonies/100ml)				
(May – September)	N/A	200	400	once/week	grab
(October – April)	N/A	1000	2000	once/week	grab
Peracetic Acid Residual (PAA) ²	N/A	2.0 (Inst. Max.) ³		two/week ⁴	grab
Total Phosphorus (TP)	Report	Report	Report	once/year	composite
Nitrate + Nitrite Nitrogen (NO ₃ + NO ₂ -N)	Report	Report	Report	once/year	composite
pH	N/A	<u>Minimum</u> 6.0 s.u.	<u>Maximum</u> 9.0 s.u.	two/week	grab
Chronic WET Testing ⁵					
<i>Pimephales promelas</i> (Chronic)⁵ Pass/Fail Lethality (7-day NOEC) TLP6C Pass/Fail Growth (7-day NOEC) TGP6C Survival (7-day NOEC) TOP6C Coefficient of Variation (Growth) TQP6C Growth (7-day NOEC) TPP6C Pass/Fail Retest 1 (7-day NOEC) 22418 Pass/Fail Retest 2 (7-day NOEC) 22419 Pass/Fail Retest 3 (7-day NOEC) 51444	<u>7-Day Minimum</u> Report (Pass=0/Fail=1) Report (Pass=0/Fail=1) Report % Report % Report % Report (Pass=0/Fail=1) Report (Pass=0/Fail=1) Report (Pass=0/Fail=1)			once/quarter once/quarter once/quarter once/quarter once/quarter once/month ⁶ once/month ⁶ once/month ⁶	composite composite composite composite composite composite composite composite
<i>Ceriodaphnia dubia</i> (Chronic)⁵ Pass/Fail Lethality (7-day NOEC) TLP3B Pass/Fail Reproduction (7-day NOEC) TGP3B Survival (7-day NOEC) TOP3B Coefficient of Variation (Reproduction) TQP3B Reproduction (7-day NOEC) TPP3B Pass/Fail Retest 1 (7-day NOEC) 22415 Pass/Fail Retest 2 (7-day NOEC) 22416 Pass/Fail Retest 3 (7-day NOEC) 51443	<u>7-Day Minimum</u> Report (Pass=0/Fail=1) Report (Pass=0/Fail=1) Report % Report % Report % Report (Pass=0/Fail=1) Report (Pass=0/Fail=1) Report (Pass=0/Fail=1)			once/quarter once/quarter once/quarter once/quarter once/quarter once/month ⁶ once/month ⁶ once/month ⁶	composite composite composite composite composite composite composite composite

¹ See Part II.5 (SSO Condition). If there are no overflows during the entire month, report “zero” (0).

- ² See Part II.9 for acceptable PAA test methods.
- ³ The effluent limitation for PAA is the instantaneous maximum and cannot be averaged for reporting purposes. PAA shall be measured within fifteen (15) minutes of sampling.
- ⁴ The monitoring and reporting of PAA on the DMRs applies only when PAA is being used for disinfection. If PAA is not used during a monitoring period, report NODI=9 (Conditional Monitoring – Not Required This Period) for the PAA parameter for that monitoring period.
- ⁵ See Part II.11 (WET Testing Condition).
- ⁶ **CONDITIONAL REPORTING:** Use only if conducting retests due to a test failure (demonstration of significant toxic effects at or below the critical dilution). If testing on a quarterly basis, the permittee may substitute one of the retests in lieu of one routine toxicity test. If retests are not required, Report NODI=9 (Conditional Monitoring - Not Required This Period) under retest parameters (reported on a quarterly DMR). This condition applies to *P. promelas* and *C. dubia*.

Oil, grease, or petrochemical substances shall not be present in receiving waters to the extent that they produce globules or other residue or any visible, colored film on the surface or coat the banks and/or bottoms of the waterbody or adversely affect any of the associated biota. There shall be no visible sheen as defined in Part IV of this permit.

Samples and measurements taken as required herein shall be representative of the volume and nature of the monitored discharge during the entire monitoring period. Samples shall be taken after the final treatment unit and prior to entering the receiving stream.

SECTION B. PERMIT COMPLIANCE SCHEDULE

Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 122.44(j)(2)(ii), the permittee shall submit either of the following items within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this permit:

1. A **WRITTEN CERTIFICATION** that a technical evaluation has demonstrated that the existing technically based local limits (TBLLs) are based on current state water quality standards and are adequate to prevent pass through of pollutants, inhibition of or interference with the treatment facility, worker health and safety problems, and sludge contamination;
2. A **WRITTEN NOTIFICATION** that a technical evaluation revising the current TBLLs will be submitted within twelve (12) months of the effective date of this permit.

Reports can be emailed to water-enforcement-report@adeq.state.ar.us or sent by postal mail to

Division of Environmental Quality
Office of Water Quality – Pretreatment Program
5301 Northshore Drive
North Little Rock, AR 72118

PART II OTHER CONDITIONS

1. The operator of this wastewater treatment facility shall be licensed as Class IV by the State of Arkansas in accordance with APC&EC Rule 3.
2. For publicly owned treatment works, the 30-day average percent removal for Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD₅) or Carbonaceous Biochemical Oxygen Demand (CBOD₅), and Total Suspended Solids (TSS) shall not be less than 85 percent unless otherwise authorized by the permitting authority in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 133.102, as adopted by reference in APC&EC Rule 6. The permittee must monitor the influent and effluent BOD₅ or CBOD₅, and TSS at least once per year and calculate the 30-day average percent removal to ensure compliance with the required 85 percent removal. If parallel treatment is operated during the year, the permittee must monitor the influent and effluent BOD₅ or CBOD₅, and TSS at least once per year during the operation of the parallel treatment. The calculation of the 30-day average percent removal shall be performed using the formula in the Percent Removal definition below, using the influent and effluent values collected on the same day. This information must be maintained on site and provided to Division personnel upon request.

The following definitions are applicable to this condition, in addition to the standard definitions in Part IV of the permit:

- a. **“30-Day Average”** means the arithmetic mean of pollutant parameter values of samples collected in a period of 30 consecutive days.
- b. **“Percent Removal”** means a percentage expression of the removal efficiency across a treatment plant for a given pollutant parameter, as determined from the 30-day average values of the raw wastewater influent pollutant concentrations to the facility and the 30-day average values of the effluent pollutant concentrations for a given time period, using following formula:

$$\frac{30\text{-day average influent} - 30\text{-day average effluent}}{30\text{-day average influent}} \times 100$$

3. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. §§ 122.62(a)(2) and 124.5, this permit may be reopened for modification or revocation and/or reissuance to require additional monitoring and/or effluent limitations when new information is received that actual or potential exceedance of State water quality criteria and/or narrative criteria are determined to be the result of the permittee’s discharge(s) to a relevant water body or a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) is established or revised for the water body that was not available at the time of the permit issuance that would have justified the application of different permit conditions at the time of permit issuance.
4. Other Specified Monitoring Requirements

The permittee may use alternative appropriate monitoring methods and analytical instruments other than as specified in Part I.A of the permit without a major permit modification under the following conditions:

- The monitoring and analytical instruments are consistent with accepted scientific practices.
- The requests shall be submitted in writing to the Permits Branch of the Office of Water Quality of the DEQ for use of the alternate method or instrument.
- The method and/or instrument is in compliance with 40 C.F.R. Part 136 or approved in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 136.5.
- All associated devices are installed, calibrated, and maintained to ensure the accuracy of the measurements and are consistent with the accepted capability of that type of device. The calibration and maintenance shall be performed as part of the permittee's laboratory Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) program.

Upon written approval of the alternative monitoring method and/or analytical instruments, these methods or instruments must be consistently utilized throughout the monitoring period. DEQ must be notified in writing and the permittee must receive written approval from DEQ if the permittee decides to return to the original permit monitoring requirements.

5. Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) Reporting Requirements:

Sanitary Sewer Overflows are not authorized by this permit.

A. A sanitary sewer overflow is any spill, release or diversion of wastewater from a sanitary sewer collection system including:

1. Any overflow, whether it discharges to the waters of the state or not.
2. An overflow of wastewater, including a wastewater backup into a building (other than a backup caused solely by a blockage or other malfunction in a privately owned sewer or building lateral), even if that overflow does not reach waters of the state.

B. 24-Hour Reporting:

When an SSO is detected – no matter how small – it must be reported within 24 hours of its discovery to DEQ's Water Quality Enforcement by using the online form in paragraph C below (the preferred method), by phone at (501) 682-0624, or by email at ssoadeq@adeq.state.ar.us.

This initial 24-hour report should include the following information:

1. Permit Number
2. Location of overflow (manhole number or street address)
3. The receiving water (if applicable)
4. Cause of overflow (if known)
5. Estimated volume of overflow so far
6. Total duration of the overflow

C. 5-Day Follow-Up Written Web Reporting:

A written report of overflows shall be provided to DEQ within 5 days of the 24-hour report. A follow-up written report (5-day report) can be filled-in and submitted on the DEQ Office of Water Quality/Enforcement Branch Web page at:

<https://www.adeg.state.ar.us/water/enforcement/sso/submit.aspx?type=s>

D. 24-Hour and 5-Day Reporting:

If the 24-hour report submitted includes all of the information requested in the 5-day report described in Paragraph C above, then a follow-up 5-day report is not required.

E. Reporting for All SSOs on DMR:

At the end of the month, total the daily occurrences and volumes from all locations within the facility's service basin and report this number on the DMR. For counting occurrences, each location within the facility's service basin where there is an overflow, spill, release, or diversion of wastewater on a given day is counted as one occurrence. For example, if on a given day overflows occur from a manhole at one location and from a damaged pipe at another location then you should record two occurrences for that day.

6. Best Management Practices (BMPs), as defined in Part IV.7, must be implemented for the facility along with the collection system to prevent or reduce the pollution of waters of the State from stormwater runoff, spills or leaks, sludge or waste disposal, or drainage from raw sewage. The permittee must amend the BMPs whenever there is a change in the facility or a change in the operation of the facility.

7. Peak Flow Operations with Parallel Treatment

“Peak flow conditions” is defined as a period of time when the influent flow exceeds 36 MGD (design flow of activated sludge aeration basins). During peak flow conditions, operation of additional parallel treatment is authorized under this permit as provided by 40 C.F.R. 122.41 (m)(2), provided that the following conditions are met:

- A. The permittee shall maintain records of parallel treatment operation on site and make available to the Division upon request. These records shall include, at a minimum, the following information:
- i. Date and time of the start and end of each episode of parallel treatment;
 - ii. Total flow volume through the parallel treatment for each episode of parallel treatment;
 - iii. Observations of environmental impacts to receiving stream, if any, caused during parallel treatment operation.
- B. The permittee shall establish and maintain a web page accessible to the public that will include the minimum information required in Item A above. The permittee must update this web page within 5 days of the conclusion of each episode of parallel treatment operations.
- C. During each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday), at least one of the required effluent samples for BOD₅ (November-April), CBOD₅ (May-October), Ammonia Nitrogen (May-October), TSS, FCB, and pH shall be taken during an episode of parallel treatment operations if the facility operates the parallel treatment during that calendar week. All

effluent sample results must be included in the calculation of the monthly average and 7-day average values reported on the DMRs.

8. Dual-Use Filtration System

A. Average Flow Operation

When the Dual-Use Filtration System is not being used for Parallel Treatment, effluent from the final clarifiers may optionally be routed through the Dual-Use Filtration System prior to disinfection.

B. Parallel Treatment Operation

The Dual-Use Filtration System shall be used for Parallel Treatment during Peak Flow Operations with Parallel Treatment in accordance with Part II.7 of this permit.

9. Peracetic Acid (PAA) Monitoring

Analysis of PAA residual shall be performed using either of the following methods:

- A. CHEMetrics Kit K-7904 (DPD Visual Method)
- B. CHEMetrics Kit K-7913 (DPD Instrumental Method)
- C. Hach Method 10297 (DPD Instrumental Method)

Use of any other test method for PAA will require prior Division approval.

10. Contributing Industries and Pretreatment Requirements

- A. The permittee shall operate an industrial pretreatment program in accordance with Section 402(b)(8) of the Clean Water Act (CWA), the General Pretreatment Regulations (40 C.F.R. Part 403) and the approved POTW pretreatment program submitted by the permittee. The pretreatment program was originally approved on November 1, 1982, and subsequently modified and approved on September 10, 1987, April 6, 1999, April 1, 2008, and November 15, 2021. The POTW pretreatment program is compliant with the October 2005 Streamlining revisions to the Federal Pretreatment Regulations in 40 C.F.R. 403. The POTW pretreatment program is hereby incorporated by reference and shall be implemented in a manner consistent with the following requirements:
 - i. Industrial user information shall be updated at a frequency adequate to ensure that all IUs are properly characterized at all times;
 - ii. The frequency and nature of industrial user compliance monitoring activities by the permittee shall be commensurate with the character, consistency and volume of waste. The permittee must inspect and sample the effluent from each Significant Industrial User in accordance with 40 C.F.R. 403.8(f)(2)(v). This is in addition to any industrial self-monitoring activities;
 - iii. The permittee shall enforce and obtain remedies for noncompliance by any industrial users with applicable pretreatment standards and requirements;

- iv. The permittee shall control through permit, order, or similar means, the contribution to the POTW by each Industrial User to ensure compliance with applicable Pretreatment Standards and Requirements. In the case of Industrial Users identified as significant under 40 C.F.R. 403.3(v), this control shall be achieved through individual control mechanisms, in accordance with 40 C.F.R. 403.8(f)(1)(iii). Control mechanisms must be enforceable and contain, at a minimum, the following conditions:
 - a. Statement of duration (in no case more than five years);
 - b. Statement of non-transferability without, at a minimum, prior notification to the POTW and provision of a copy of the existing control mechanism to the new owner or operator;
 - c. Effluent limits, including Best Management Practices, based on applicable general Pretreatment Standards, categorical Pretreatment Standards, local limits, and State and local law;
 - d. Self-monitoring, sampling, reporting, notification and recordkeeping requirements, including an identification of the pollutants to be monitored sampling location, sampling frequency, and sample type, based on the applicable general Pretreatment Standards in 40 C.F.R. 403, categorical Pretreatment Standards, local limits, and State and local law;
 - e. Statement of applicable civil and criminal penalties for violation of Pretreatment Standards and requirements, and any applicable compliance schedule. Such schedules may not extend the compliance date beyond federal deadlines; and
 - f. Requirements to control slug discharges, if determined by the POTW to be necessary.
 - v. The permittee shall evaluate, whether each Significant Industrial User needs a plan or other action to control slug discharges, in accordance with 40 C.F.R. 403.8(f)(2)(vi);
 - vi. The permittee shall provide adequate staff, equipment, and support capabilities to carry out all elements of the pretreatment program; and
 - vii. The approved program shall not be modified by the permittee without the prior approval of the DEQ.
- B. The permittee shall establish and enforce specific limits to implement the provisions of 40 C.F.R. Parts 403.5(a) and (b), as required by 40 C.F.R. Part 403.5(c). POTWs may develop Best Management Practices (BMPs) to implement paragraphs 40 C.F.R. 403.5(c)(1) and (c)(2). Such BMPs shall be considered local limits and Pretreatment Standards. Each POTW with an approved pretreatment program shall continue to develop these limits as necessary and effectively enforce such limits.

The permittee shall submit, within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this permit, (1) a **WRITTEN CERTIFICATION** that a technical evaluation has demonstrated that the existing technically based local limits (TBLLs) are based on current state water quality

standards and are adequate to prevent pass through of pollutants, inhibition of or interference with the treatment facility, worker health and safety problems, and sludge contamination, or (2) a **WRITTEN NOTIFICATION** that a technical evaluation revising the current TBLs will be submitted within 12 months of the effective date of this permit.

All specific prohibitions or limits developed under this requirement are deemed to be conditions of this permit. The specific prohibitions set out in 40 C.F.R. Part 403.5(b) shall be enforced by the permittee unless modified under this provision.

- C. The permittee shall analyze the treatment facility influent and effluent for the presence of the toxic pollutants listed in 40 C.F.R. 122 Appendix D (NPDES Application Testing Requirements) Table II at least once per year and the toxic pollutants in Table III at least four (4) times per year (quarterly). If, based upon information available to the permittee, there is reason to suspect the presence of any toxic or hazardous pollutant listed in Table V of 40 C.F.R. 122 Appendix D, or any other pollutant, known or suspected to adversely affect treatment plant operation, receiving water quality, or solids disposal procedures, analysis for those pollutants shall be performed at least four (4) times per year (quarterly) on both the influent and the effluent.

i. Composite Method

- a. Influent and effluent operational data shall be obtained through composite samples, as defined in Part IV of the permit, except where composite sampling is not an appropriate technique.
- b. Effluent sample collection need not be delayed to compensate for hydraulic detention unless the POTW elects to include detention time compensation or unless DEQ requires detention time compensation. DEQ may require that each effluent sample is taken approximately one detention time later than the corresponding influent sample when failure to do so would result in an unrepresentative portrayal of actual POTW operation. The detention period should be based on a 24-hour average daily flow value. The average daily flow should in turn be based on the average of the daily flows during the same month of the previous year.

ii. Grab Method

- a. If composite sampling is not an appropriate technique, grab samples, as defined in Part IV of the permit, shall be taken to obtain influent and effluent operational data. The collection of influent grab samples should precede the collection of effluent samples by approximately one detention period except that where the detention period is greater than 24 hours such staggering of the sample collection may not be necessary or appropriate. The detention period should be based on a 24-hour average daily flow value. The average daily flow should in turn be based upon the average of the daily flows during the same month of the previous year. Grab sampling should be employed where the pollutants being evaluated are those, such as cyanide and phenol, which may not be held for an extended period because of biological, chemical or physical interaction which take place after sample collection and affect the results.

D. The permittee shall prepare annually a list of Industrial Users which, during the preceding twelve months (the Pretreatment “Reporting Year”) were in significant noncompliance with applicable pretreatment requirements. For the purposes of this Part, significant noncompliance shall be determined based upon the more stringent of either criteria established at 40 C.F.R. Part 403.8(f)(2)(viii) or criteria established in the approved POTW pretreatment program. This list is to be published annually during the month of March in the newspaper of general circulation that provides meaningful public notice within the jurisdiction(s) served by the POTW.

Note: For permittees with multiple NPDES permits, only one (1) updated pretreatment program status report (“Annual Report”) is required. The annual report shall reference the Tracking NPDES Permit Number AR0021806 for the permittee’s approved Pretreatment Program.

In addition, by 4:30 P.M. Central Time (if electronically submitted) OR postmarked on or before the last business day in the month of March the permittee shall submit an updated pretreatment program status report to the DEQ containing the following information:

- i. An updated list of all significant industrial users. The list must identify:
 - a. Industrial Users classified as Non-Significant Categorical Industrial User (NSCIUs) or Middle Tier CIUs.
 - b. Industrial Users subject to categorical Pretreatment Standards that are subject to reduced monitoring and reporting requirements under 40 C.F.R. 403.12(e)(2) and (3).
 - c. Industrial Users subject to the categorical Pretreatment Standards of the following Point Source Categories: Organic Chemicals, Plastics, and Synthetic Fibers [40 C.F.R. Part 414], Petroleum Refining [40 C.F.R. Part 419], and Pesticide Chemicals [40 C.F.R. Part 455] and for which the Control Authority has chosen to use the concentration-based standards rather than converting them to flow-based mass standards as allowed at 40 C.F.R. 403.6(c)(6).
 - d. Categorical Industrial Users subject to concentration-based standards for which the Control Authority has chosen to convert the concentration-based standards to equivalent mass limits, as allowed at 40 C.F.R. 403.6(c)(5).
 - e. General Control Mechanisms used for similar groups of SIUs along with the substantially similar types of operations and the types of wastes that are the same, for each separate General Control Mechanism, as allowed at 40 C.F.R. 403.8(f)(1)(iii).
 - f. Best Management Practices or Pollution Prevention alternatives required by a categorical Pretreatment Standard or as a local limit requirement that are implemented and documentation to demonstrate compliance, as required at 40 C.F.R. 403.12(b), (e) and (h).
- ii. For each industrial user listed the following information shall be included:

- a. Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code, North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code and categorical determination;
 - b. Control document status, i.e., whether the user has an effective control document and the date such document was last issued, reissued or modified. Additionally, indicate which industrial users were added to the system, or newly identified, within the previous 12 months;
 - c. A summary of all monitoring activities performed within the previous 12 months. The following information shall be reported:
 - (1) total number of inspections performed;
 - (2) total number of sampling visits made;
 - d. Status of compliance with both effluent limitations and reporting requirements. Compliance status shall be defined as follows:
 - (1) Compliant (C) – no violations during the previous 12 month period;
 - (2) Non-compliant (NC) – one or more violations during the previous 12 months but does not meet the criteria for significantly noncompliant industrial users;
 - (3) Significant Noncompliance (SNC) – in accordance with requirements described in Item D above; and
 - e. For significantly noncompliant industrial users, indicate the nature of the violations, the type and number of actions taken (notice of violation, administrative order, criminal or civil suit, fines or penalties collected, *etc.*) and current compliance status. If ANY industrial user was on a schedule to attain compliance with effluent limits, indicate the date the schedule was issued and the date compliance is to be attained.
- iii. A list of all significant industrial users whose authorization to discharge was terminated or revoked during the preceding 12 month period and the reason for termination;
 - iv. A report on any interference, pass through, upset or POTW permit violations known or suspected to be caused by industrial contributors and actions taken by the permittee in response;
 - v. The results of all influent and effluent analyses performed pursuant to Item C above;
 - vi. An influent/effluent summary chart containing the monthly average water quality-based effluent concentration demonstrating compliance with permit limits or the water quality levels not to exceed as developed in the permittee's approved technically based local limits document;
 - vii. The information requested may be submitted in tabular form as per the example tables provided on DEQ's website for your convenience (See

<https://www.adeg.state.ar.us/water/permits/npdes/pretreatment/>); and

viii. A copy of the newspaper publication of the significantly noncompliant industrial users giving the name of the newspaper and the date published.

E. The permittee shall provide adequate notice of the following:

- i. Any new introduction of pollutants into the treatment works from an indirect discharger that would be subject to Sections 301 and 306 of the CWA if it were directly discharging those pollutants; and
- ii. Any substantial change in the volume or character of pollutants being introduced into the treatment works by a source introducing pollutants into the treatment works at the time of issuance of the permit.

Adequate notice shall include information on (i) the quality and quantity of effluent to be introduced into the treatment works, and (ii) any anticipated impact of the change on the quality or quantity of effluent to be discharged from the POTW.

11. WHOLE EFFLUENT TOXICITY TESTING (7 DAY CHRONIC NOEC)

It is unlawful and a violation of this permit for a permittee or his designated agent, to manipulate test samples in any manner, to delay sample shipment, or to terminate or to cause to terminate a toxicity test. Once initiated, all toxicity tests must be completed unless specific authority has been granted by EPA Region 6 or the State NPDES permitting authority (DEQ).

A. SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

- i. The permittee shall test the effluent for toxicity in accordance with the provisions in this section.

Applicable To Final Outfall(S)	001
Reported On DMR As Final Outfall	001
Critical Dilution (%)	21%
Effluent Dilution Series (%)	9%, 12%, 16%, 21%, 28%
Testing Frequency:	once/quarter
Sample Type	“Composite Sample (defined in Paragraph B.iii)”
Test Species/Methods:	40 C.F.R. § 136

Ceriodaphnia dubia chronic static renewal survival and reproduction test, Method 1002.0, EPA-821-R-02-013, or the most recent update thereof.

Pimephales promelas (Fathead minnow) chronic static renewal 7-day larval survival and growth test, Method 1000.0, EPA-821-R-02-013, or the most recent update thereof.

- ii. The NOEC (No Observed Effect Concentration) is herein defined as the greatest effluent dilution at and below which toxicity that is statistically different from the control (0% effluent) at the 95% confidence level does not occur. Chronic lethal test failure is defined as a demonstration of a statistically significant lethal effect at test completion to a test species at or below the critical dilution. Chronic sub-lethal test failure is defined as a demonstration of a statistically significant sub-lethal effect (i.e., growth or reproduction) at test completion to a test species at or below the critical dilution.
- iii. This permit may be reopened to require WET limits, chemical specific effluent limits, additional testing, and/or other appropriate actions to address toxicity.

B. REQUIRED TEST ACCEPTABILITY CRITERIA AND TEST CONDITIONS

Non-ideal concentration-response relationships will occasionally be encountered in toxicity testing. In the event the results from a specific toxicity test yield a non-ideal concentration-response relationship, the permittee shall submit the toxicity report to DEQ and request a technical review prior to initiating retests. The goal of the technical review is to properly interpret non-ideal patterns and to reduce the number of false positives and unnecessary retests. At the conclusion of the technical review, DEQ will advise the permittee on any follow up toxicity retests that may be required. However, if an ideal response-relationship is indicated in the results, the Division may require the permittee to conduct additional testing as required by Part II.11.B.i.a.

The permittee shall repeat a test, including the control and all effluent dilutions, if the procedures and quality assurance requirements defined in the test methods or in this permit are not satisfied, including the following additional criteria:

Condition/Criteria	<i>Ceriodaphnia dubia</i>	<i>Pimephales promelas</i>
Test Duration	Until 60% or more of surviving control females have 3 broods (max 8 days)	7 days
# of replicates per concentration	10	5
# of organisms per replicate	1	8
# of organisms per concentration	10	40 (minimum)
# of test concentrations per effluent	5 and a control	5 and a control
Sample Holding Time *	36 hours for first use	36 hours for first use
Sampling Requirement *	Minimum of 3 samples	Minimum of 3 samples
Test Acceptability Criteria	≥80% survival of all control organisms.	≥80% survival of all control organisms.
	Mean of 15 or more neonates	Mean dry weight per

Condition/Criteria	<i>Ceriodaphnia dubia</i>	<i>Pimephales promelas</i>
	per surviving control female.	surviving organism in control must be ≥ 0.25 mg.
	60% of surviving control females must produce 3 broods.	
Coefficient of Variation **	40% or less, unless significant effects are exhibited.	40% or less unless significant effects are exhibited.
Percent Minimum Significant Difference (PMSD range) for Sub-lethal Endpoint **	13 – 47	12 - 30

* If the flow from the outfall(s) being tested ceases during the collection of effluent samples, the requirements for the minimum number of effluent samples and the minimum number of effluent portions are waived during that sampling period. However, the permittee must collect an effluent composite sample volume during the period of discharge that is sufficient to complete the required toxicity tests with daily renewal of effluent, and must meet the holding time between collection and first use of the sample. When possible, the effluent samples used for the toxicity tests shall be collected on separate days. The effluent composite sample collection duration and the static renewal protocol associated with the abbreviated sample collection must be documented in the full report required in Item C of this section.

** Test failure may not be construed or reported as invalid due to a coefficient of variation value of greater than 40%, or a PMSD value greater than the higher value on the range provided.

i. Statistical Interpretation

The statistical analyses used to determine if there is a significant difference between the control and the critical dilution shall be in accordance with the methods for determining the No Observed Effect Concentration (NOEC) as described in the appropriate method manual listed in Part II or the most recent update thereof.

ii. Dilution Water

a. Dilution water used in the toxicity tests will be receiving water collected as close to the point of discharge as possible but unaffected by the discharge. The permittee shall substitute synthetic dilution water of similar pH, hardness, and alkalinity to the closest downstream perennial water for;

(1) toxicity tests conducted on effluent discharges to receiving water classified as intermittent streams; and

(2) toxicity tests conducted on effluent discharges where no receiving water is available due to zero flow conditions.

b. If the receiving water is unsatisfactory as a result of instream toxicity (fails to fulfill

the test acceptance criteria), the permittee may substitute synthetic dilution water for the receiving water in all subsequent tests provided the unacceptable receiving water test met the following stipulations:

- (1) a synthetic dilution water control which fulfills the test acceptance requirements was run concurrently with the receiving water control;
- (2) the test indicating receiving water toxicity has been carried out to completion,
- (3) the permittee includes all test results indicating receiving water toxicity with the full report and information required; and
- (4) the synthetic dilution water shall have a pH, hardness, and alkalinity similar to that of the receiving water or closest downstream perennial water not adversely affected by the discharge, provided the magnitude of these parameters will not cause toxicity in the synthetic dilution water.

iii. Samples and Composites

- a. The permittee shall collect a minimum of three samples (flow-weighted composite if possible) from the outfall(s).
- b. The permittee shall collect a second and third sample (composite samples if possible) for use during the 24-hour renewal of each dilution concentration for each test. The permittee must collect the composite samples so that the maximum holding time for any effluent sample shall not exceed 36 hours for first use of the sample. The permittee must have initiated the toxicity test within 36 hours after the collection of the last portion of the first composite sample. Samples shall be chilled to 0-6 degrees Centigrade during collection, shipping, and/or storage. A holding time up to 72 hrs is allowed upon notification to DEQ of the need for additional holding time.
- c. The permittee must collect the composite samples such that the effluent samples are representative of the discharge duration, and of any periodic episode of chlorination, biocide usage or other potentially toxic substance discharged on an intermittent basis.

The permittee previously submitted three years of data when diquat dibromide was used for root removal. This data was sufficient to conclude no effect. The requirement for collecting effluent samples while using diquat dibromide for root removal is waived.

C. REPORTING

- i. The permittee shall prepare a full report of the results of all tests conducted pursuant to this part in accordance with the Report Preparation Section of the most current publication of the method manual, for every valid or invalid toxicity test initiated, whether carried to completion or not. The permittee shall retain each full report and

submit them to the Agency via NetDMR. For any test which fails, is considered invalid, or which is terminated early for any reason, the full report must be submitted for agency review.

- ii. A valid test for each species must be reported during each reporting period specified in PART I of this permit unless the permittee is performing a TRE which may increase the frequency of testing and reporting. One set of biomonitoring data for each species is to be recorded on the DMR for each reporting period. Additional results are reported under the retest codes below.
- iii. The permittee shall submit the results of each valid toxicity test on the subsequent DMR for that reporting period as follows below. Submit retest information clearly marked as such with the subsequent DMR. Only results of valid tests are to be reported on the DMR.

Reporting Requirement	Parameter STORET CODE	
	<i>Ceriodaphnia dubia</i>	<i>Pimephales promelas</i>
Enter a "1" if the No Observed Effect Concentration (NOEC) for survival is less than the critical dilution, otherwise enter a "0".	TLP3B	TLP6C
Report the NOEC value for survival	TOP3B	TOP6C
Enter a "1" if the NOEC for growth or reproduction is less than the critical dilution, otherwise enter a "0".	TGP3B	TGP6C
Report the NOEC value for growth or reproduction	TPP3B	TPP6C
Report the highest (critical dilution or control) Coefficient of Variation	TQP3B	TQP6C
(If required) Retest 1 – Enter a "1" if the NOEC for survival, growth or reproduction is less than the critical dilution, otherwise enter "0". (reported on quarterly DMR)*	22415	22418
(If required) Retest 2- Enter a "1" if the NOEC for survival, growth or reproduction is less than the critical dilution, otherwise enter "0". (reported on quarterly DMR)*	22416	22419
(If required) Retest 3- Enter a "1" if the NOEC for survival, growth or reproduction is less than the critical dilution, otherwise enter "0". (reported on quarterly DMR)*	51443	51444

* If retests are not required, Report NODI=9 (Conditional Monitoring - Not Required This Period).

iv. DMR parameters

Report the following parameters on the DMR:

Scheduled DMR: TLP6C, TOP6C, TPP6C, TGP6C, TQP6C, 22418, 22419, 51444, TLP3B, TOP3B, TPP3B, TGP3B, TQP3B, 22415, 22416, and 51443.

D. MONITORING FREQUENCY REDUCTION

- i. The permittee may apply for a testing frequency reduction upon the successful completion of the first four consecutive quarters of testing for a test species, with no lethal or sub-lethal effects demonstrated at or below the critical dilution. If granted, the monitoring frequency for that test species may be reduced to not less once per six months.
- ii. Certification - The permittee must certify in writing that no test failures have occurred and that all tests meet all test acceptability criteria above. In addition, the permittee must provide a list with each test performed including test initiation date, species, and NOECs. Upon review and acceptance of this information, the agency will issue a letter of confirmation of the monitoring frequency reduction. A copy of the letter will be forwarded to the agency's compliance section to update the permit reporting requirements.
- iii. Failures - If any test demonstrates lethal or sub-lethal effects at or below the critical dilution at any time during the life of this permit, three monthly retests are required. If a frequency reduction had been granted, the monitoring frequency for the affected test species reverts to once per quarter until the permit is re-issued.
- iv. This monitoring frequency reduction applies only until the expiration date of this permit, at which time the monitoring frequency for both test species reverts to once per quarter until the permit is re-issued.
- v. For administratively continued facilities where permit renewal was held up by no fault of the permittee, the following language regarding WET testing frequency reduction applies after permit renewal:

The permittee may apply for a testing frequency reduction upon the successful completion of the first four consecutive quarters of testing after the expiration date of the previous permit, for one or both test species, provided that all of the following conditions are met:

- a. The permittee tested quarterly upon the expiration date of that permit, and
- b. The issuance of the renewed permit was not delayed by any fault of the permittee, and
- c. No lethal or sub-lethal effects are demonstrated at or below the critical dilution for the first four consecutive quarters of testing after the expiration date of the previous permit.

E. PERSISTENT TOXICITY

The requirements of this subsection apply only when a toxicity test demonstrates significant lethal and/or sub-lethal effects at or below the critical dilution. Significant toxic effects, are herein defined as a statistically significant difference at the 95% confidence level between the survival, growth or reproduction of the appropriate test organism in a specified effluent dilution and the control (0% effluent). If the initial WET test conducted fails, the permittee will conduct three consecutively monthly retests. The purpose of retests is to determine the duration of a toxic event. A test that meets all test acceptability criteria and demonstrates significant toxic effects does not need additional confirmation. Such testing cannot confirm or disprove a previous test result.

i. Retest

The permittee shall conduct a total of three (3) additional tests for any species that demonstrates significant effects at or below the critical dilution. The three additional tests shall be conducted monthly (one test per month) during the next three consecutive months. If testing on a quarterly basis, the permittee may substitute one of the additional tests in lieu of one routine toxicity test. A full report shall be prepared for each test required by this section in accordance with the reporting requirements previously outlined and submitted to the Agency.

ii. Requirement to Initiate a Toxicity Reduction Evaluation

If persistent lethality is demonstrated by failure of one or more retests, the permittee shall initiate Toxicity Reduction Evaluation (TRE) requirements as specified in Part F of this section. If persistent sub-lethality is demonstrated by failure of two or more retests, the permittee shall initiate Toxicity Reduction Evaluation (TRE) requirements. The permittee shall notify DEQ in writing within 5 days of notification of the failure of any retest, and the TRE initiation date will be the test completion date of the first failed retest for lethal TREs or second failed retest for sub-lethal TREs. A TRE may also be required due to a demonstration of intermittent effects at or below the critical dilution, or for failure to perform the required retests.

F. TOXICITY REDUCTION EVALUATION (TRE)

EPA Region 6 is currently addressing TREs as follows: A TRE is triggered following three sub-lethal test failures (a failure followed by two retest failures) or two test failures with lethal effects (a failure followed by one retest failure).

- i. Within ninety (90) days of confirming lethality and/or sub-lethality in the retests, the permittee shall submit a Toxicity Reduction Evaluation (TRE) Action Plan and Schedule for conducting a TRE to DEQ. The TRE Action Plan shall specify the approach and methodology to be used in performing the TRE. A TRE is an investigation intended to determine those actions necessary to achieve compliance with water quality based effluent limits by reducing an effluent's toxicity to an acceptable level. A TRE is defined as a step wise process which combines toxicity testing and analyses of the physical and chemical characteristics of a toxic effluent to identify the constituents causing effluent toxicity and/or treatment methods which will reduce the effluent toxicity. The TRE Action Plan shall lead to the successful elimination of

effluent toxicity at the critical dilution and include the following:

- a. **Specific Activities.** The plan shall detail the specific approach the permittee intends to utilize in conducting the TRE. The approach may include toxicity characterizations, a Toxicity Identification Evaluation (TIE) and confirmation activities, source evaluation, treatability studies, or alternative approaches. When the permittee conducts Toxicity Identification Evaluations to characterize the nature of the constituents causing toxicity, the permittee shall perform multiple characterizations and follow the procedures specified in the documents "Methods for Aquatic Toxicity Identification Evaluations: Phase I Toxicity Characterization Procedures" (EPA 600/6-91/003) or alternate procedures. When the permittee conducts Toxicity Identification Evaluations and Confirmations, the permittee shall perform multiple identifications and follow the methods specified in the documents "Methods for Aquatic Toxicity Identification Evaluations, Phase II Toxicity Identification Procedures for Samples Exhibiting Acute and Chronic Toxicity" (EPA/600/R-92/080) and "Methods for Aquatic Toxicity Identification Evaluations, Phase III Toxicity Confirmation Procedures for Samples Exhibiting Acute and Chronic Toxicity" (EPA/600/R-92/081), as appropriate.
 - b. **Sampling Plan** (e.g., locations, methods, holding times, chain of custody, preservation, etc.). The effluent sample volume collected for all tests shall be adequate to perform the toxicity test, toxicity characterization, identification and confirmation procedures, and conduct chemical specific analyses when a probable toxicant has been identified; Where the permittee has identified or suspects specific pollutant(s) and/or source(s) of effluent toxicity, the permittee shall conduct, concurrent with toxicity testing, chemical specific analyses for the identified and/or suspected pollutant(s) and/or source(s) of effluent toxicity. Where toxicity was demonstrated within 24 hours of test initiation, each composite sample shall be analyzed independently. Otherwise the permittee may substitute a composite sample, comprised of equal portions of the individual composite samples, for the chemical specific analysis;
 - c. **Quality Assurance Plan** (e.g., QA/QC implementation, corrective actions, etc.); and
 - d. **Project Organization** (e.g., project staff, project manager, consulting services, etc.).
- ii. The permittee shall initiate the TRE Action Plan within thirty (30) days of plan and schedule submittal.
 - iii. The permittee shall submit a quarterly TRE Activities Report to DEQ in the months of January, April, July and October, containing information on toxicity reduction evaluation activities including:
 - a. Any data and/or substantiating documentation which identifies the pollutant(s) and/or source(s) of effluent toxicity;
 - b. Any studies/evaluations and results on the treatability of the facility's effluent toxicity; and

- c. Any data which identifies effluent toxicity control mechanisms that will reduce effluent toxicity to the level necessary to meet no significant toxicity at the critical dilution. A copy of the TRE Activities Report shall also be submitted to the state agency.
- d. Any results and interpretation of any chemical specific analysis, and for any characterization, identification, and confirmation tests performed during the quarter.
- e. Any changes to the initial TRE plan and schedule that are believed necessary.

iv. Finalizing a TRE

The permittee shall submit (to DEQ) a final report on TRE activities no later than twenty-eight (28) months from confirming toxicity in the retests, which provides information pertaining to the specific control mechanism selected that will, when implemented, result in reduction of effluent toxicity to no significant toxicity at the critical dilution. The report will also provide a specific corrective action schedule for implementing the selected control mechanism. A copy of the final report on TRE Activities shall also be submitted to the state agency.

A TRE may be stopped if there is no toxicity at the critical dilution for a period of 12 consecutive months (with at least monthly testing) following confirmation of toxicity in the retests. The permittee would submit a final report to DEQ at that time.

- v. Quarterly testing during the TRE is a minimum monitoring requirement. EPA recommends that permittees required to perform a TRE not rely on quarterly testing alone to ensure success in the TRE, and that additional screening tests be performed to capture toxic samples for identification of toxicants. Failure to identify the specific chemical compound causing toxicity test failure will normally result in a permit limit for whole effluent toxicity limits per federal regulations at 40 C.F.R. § 122.44(d)(1)(v).

PART III STANDARD CONDITIONS

SECTION A – GENERAL CONDITIONS

1. Duty to Comply

The permittee must comply with all conditions of this permit. Any permit noncompliance constitutes a violation of the federal Clean Water Act and the Arkansas Water and Air Pollution Control Act and is grounds for enforcement action; for permit termination, revocation and reissuance, or modification; and/or for denial of a permit renewal application. **Any values reported in the required Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) which are in excess of an effluent limitation specified in Part I shall constitute evidence of violation of such effluent limitation and of this permit.**

2. Penalties for Violations of Permit Conditions

The Arkansas Water and Air Pollution Control Act provides that any person who violates any provisions of a permit issued under the Act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be subject to imprisonment for not more than one (1) year, or a fine of not more than twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) or by both such fine and imprisonment for each day of such violation. Any person who violates any provision of a permit issued under the Act may also be subject to civil penalty in such amount as the court shall find appropriate, not to exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for each day of such violation. The fact that any such violation may constitute a misdemeanor shall not be a bar to the maintenance of such civil action.

3. Permit Actions

This permit may be modified, revoked and reissued, or terminated for cause including, but not limited to the following:

- A. Violation of any terms or conditions of this permit.
- B. Obtaining this permit by misrepresentation or failure to disclose fully all relevant facts.
- C. A change in any conditions that requires either a temporary or permanent reduction or elimination of the authorized discharge.
- D. A determination that the permitted activity endangers human health or the environment and can only be regulated to acceptable levels by permit modification or termination.
- E. Failure of the permittee to comply with the provisions of APC&EC Rule 9 (Permit fees) as required by Part III.A.11 herein.

The filing of a request by the permittee for a permit modification, revocation and reissuance, or termination, or a notification of planned changes or anticipated noncompliance, does not stay any permit condition.

4. **Toxic Pollutants**

Notwithstanding Part III.A.3, if any toxic effluent standard or prohibition (including any schedule of compliance specified in such effluent standard or prohibition) is promulgated under APC&EC Rule 2, as amended, or Section 307(a) of the Clean Water Act for a toxic pollutant which is present in the discharge and that standard or prohibition is more stringent than any limitations on the pollutant in this permit, this permit shall be modified or revoked and reissued to conform to the toxic effluent standards or prohibition and the permittee so notified.

The permittee shall comply with effluent standards, narrative criteria, or prohibitions established under APC&EC Rule 2, as amended, or Section 307(a) of the Clean Water Act for toxic pollutants within the time provided in the regulations that establish those standards or prohibitions, even if the permit has not yet been modified to incorporate the requirement.

5. **Civil and Criminal Liability**

Except as provided in permit conditions for “Bypass of Treatment Facilities” (Part III.B.4), and “Upset” (Part III.B.5), nothing in this permit shall be construed to relieve the permittee from civil or criminal penalties for noncompliance. Any false or materially misleading representation or concealment of information required to be reported by the provisions of this permit or applicable state and federal statutes or regulations which defeats the regulatory purposes of the permit may subject the permittee to criminal enforcement pursuant to the Arkansas Water and Air Pollution Control Act (Ark. Code Ann. § 8-4-101 et seq.).

6. **Oil and Hazardous Substance Liability**

Nothing in this permit shall be construed to preclude the institution of any legal action or relieve the permittee from any responsibilities, liabilities, or penalties to which the permittee is or may be subject to under Section 311 of the Clean Water Act.

7. **State Laws**

Nothing in this permit shall be construed to preclude the institution of any legal action or relieve the permittee from any responsibilities, liabilities, or penalties established pursuant to any applicable State law or regulation under authority preserved by Section 510 of the Clean Water Act.

8. **Property Rights**

The issuance of this permit does not convey any property rights of any sort, or any exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize any exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize any injury to private property or any invasion of personal rights, nor any infringement of Federal, State, or local laws or regulations.

9. **Severability**

The provisions of this permit are severable, and if any provision of this permit, or the application of any provisions of this permit to any circumstance is held invalid, the application

of such provision to other circumstances, and the remainder of this permit, shall not be affected thereby.

10. **Applicable Federal, State or Local Requirements**

Permittees are responsible for compliance with all applicable terms and conditions of this permit. Receipt of this permit does not relieve any operator of the responsibility to comply with any other applicable federal, state, or local requirement, statute, ordinance, or regulation.

11. **Permit Fees**

The permittee shall comply with all applicable permit fee requirements (i.e., including annual permit fees following the initial permit fee that will be invoiced every year the permit is active) for wastewater discharge permits as described in APC&EC Rule 9 (Rule for the Fee System for Environmental Permits). Failure to promptly remit all required fees shall be grounds for the Director to initiate action to terminate this permit under the provisions of 40 C.F.R. §§ 122.64 and 124.5(d), as adopted in APC&EC Rule 6 and the provisions of APC&EC Rule 8.

SECTION B – OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF POLLUTION CONTROLS

1. **Proper Operation and Maintenance**

- A. The permittee shall at all times properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems of treatment and control (and related appurtenances) which are installed or used by the permittee to achieve compliance with the conditions of this permit. Proper operation and maintenance also includes adequate laboratory controls and appropriate quality assurance procedures. This provision requires the operation of backup or auxiliary facilities or similar systems which are installed by a permittee only when the operation is necessary to achieve compliance with the conditions of the permit.
- B. The permittee shall provide an adequate operating staff which is duly qualified to carryout operation, maintenance, and testing functions required to ensure compliance with the conditions of this permit.

2. **Need to Halt or Reduce not a Defense**

It shall not be a defense for a permittee in an enforcement action that it would have been necessary to halt or reduce the permitted activity in order to maintain compliance with the conditions of this permit. Upon reduction, loss, or failure of the treatment facility, the permittee shall, to the extent necessary to maintain compliance with its permit, control production or discharges or both until the facility is restored or an alternative method of treatment is provided. This requirement applies, for example, when the primary source of power for the treatment facility is reduced, is lost, or alternate power supply fails.

3. **Duty to Mitigate**

The permittee shall take all reasonable steps to minimize or prevent any discharge in violation of this permit which has a reasonable likelihood of adversely affecting human health or the environment or the water receiving the discharge.

4. **Bypass of Treatment Facilities**

“Bypass” means the intentional diversion of waste streams from any portion of a treatment facility, as defined at 40 C.F.R. § 122.41(m)(1)(i).

A. Bypass not exceeding limitation

The permittee may allow any bypass to occur which does not cause effluent limitations to be exceeded, but only if it also is for essential maintenance to assure efficient operation. These bypasses are not subject to the provisions of Parts III.B.4.B and 4.C.

B. Notice

1. Anticipated bypass. If the permittee knows in advance of the need for a bypass, it shall submit prior notice, if possible at least ten days before the date of the bypass.
2. Unanticipated bypass. The permittee shall submit notice of an unanticipated bypass as required in Part III.D.6 (24-hour notice).

C. Prohibition of bypass

1. Bypass is prohibited and the Director may take enforcement action against a permittee for bypass, unless:
 - (a) Bypass was unavoidable to prevent loss of life, personal injury, or severe property damage;
 - (b) There were no feasible alternatives to the bypass, such as the use of auxiliary treatment facilities, retention of untreated wastes, or maintenance during normal periods of equipment downtime. This condition is not satisfied if the permittee could have installed adequate backup equipment to prevent a bypass which occurred during normal periods of equipment downtime or preventive maintenance; and
 - (c) The permittee submitted notices as required by Part III.B.4.B.
2. The Director may approve an anticipated bypass, after considering its adverse effects, if the Director determines that it will meet the three conditions listed above in Part III.B.4.C(1).

5. **Upset Conditions**

- A. Effect of an upset. An upset constitutes an affirmative defense to an action brought for noncompliance with such technology based permit effluent limitations if the requirements of Part III.B.5.B of this section are met. No determination made during administrative review of claims that noncompliance was caused by upset, and before an action for noncompliance, is final administrative action subject to judicial review.
- B. Conditions necessary for demonstration of upset. A permittee who wishes to establish the affirmative defense of upset shall demonstrate, through properly signed, contemporaneous operating logs, or other relevant evidence that:

1. An upset occurred and that the permittee can identify the specific cause(s) of the upset.
2. The permitted facility was at the time being properly operated.
3. The permittee submitted notice of the upset as required by Part III.D.6.
4. The permittee complied with any remedial measures required by Part III.B.3.

C. Burden of proof. In any enforcement proceeding, the permittee seeking to establish the occurrence of an upset has the burden of proof.

6. **Removed Substances**

- A. Solids, sludges, filter backwash, or other pollutants removed in the course of treatment or control of wastewaters shall be disposed of in a manner such as to prevent any pollutant from such materials from entering waters of the State. The Permittee must comply with all applicable state and Federal regulations governing the disposal of sludge, including but not limited to 40 C.F.R. Parts 257, 258, and 503.
- B. Any changes to the permittee's disposal practices described in the Fact Sheet, as derived from the permit application, will require at least 180 days prior notice to the Director to allow time for additional permitting. Please note that the 180 day notification requirement may be waived if additional permitting is not required for the change.

7. **Power Failure**

The permittee is responsible for maintaining adequate safeguards to prevent the discharge of untreated or inadequately treated wastes during electrical power failure either by means of alternate power sources, standby generators, or retention of inadequately treated effluent.

SECTION C – MONITORING AND RECORDS

1. **Representative Sampling**

Samples and measurements taken as required herein shall be representative of the volume and nature of the monitored discharge during the entire monitoring period. All samples shall be taken at the monitoring points specified in this permit and, unless otherwise specified, before the effluent joins or is diluted by any other waste stream, body of water, or substance. Monitoring points shall not be changed without notification to and the approval of the Director. Intermittent discharge shall be monitored.

2. **Flow Measurement**

Appropriate flow measurement devices and methods consistent with accepted scientific practices shall be selected and used to ensure the accuracy and reliability of measurements of the volume of monitored discharges. The devices shall be installed, calibrated, and maintained to ensure the accuracy of the measurements are consistent with the accepted capability of that type of device. Devices selected shall be capable of measuring flows with a maximum deviation of less than +/- 10% from true discharge rates throughout the range of expected discharge volumes and shall be installed at the monitoring point of the discharge.

Calculated Flow Measurement

For calculated flow measurements that are performed in accordance with either the permit requirements or a Division approved method (i.e., as allowed in the *Other Specified Monitoring Requirements* condition under Part II), the +/- 10% accuracy requirement described above is waived. This waiver is only applicable when the method used for calculation of the flow has been reviewed and approved by the Division.

3. Monitoring Procedures

Monitoring must be conducted according to test procedures approved under 40 C.F.R. Part 136, unless other test procedures have been specified in this permit. The permittee shall calibrate and perform maintenance procedures on all monitoring and analytical instrumentation at intervals frequent enough to ensure accuracy of measurements and shall ensure that both calibration and maintenance activities will be conducted. An adequate analytical quality control program, including the analysis of sufficient standards, spikes, and duplicate samples to ensure the accuracy of all required analytical results shall be maintained by the permittee or designated commercial laboratory. At a minimum, spikes and duplicate samples are to be analyzed on 10% of the samples.

4. Penalties for Tampering

The Arkansas Water and Air Pollution Control Act provides that any person who falsifies, tampers with, or knowingly renders inaccurate, any monitoring device or method required to be maintained under the Act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be subject to imprisonment for not more than one (1) year or a fine of not more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) or by both such fine and imprisonment.

5. Reporting of Monitoring Results

40 C.F.R. § 127.11(a)(1) and 40 C.F.R. § 127.16(a) require that monitoring reports must be reported on a Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMR) and filed electronically. Signatory Authorities must initially request access for a NetDMR account. Once a NetDMR account is established, access to electronic filing should use the following link <https://cdx.epa.gov>. Permittees who are unable to file electronically may request a waiver from the Director in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 127.15. Monitoring results obtained during the previous monitoring period shall be summarized and reported on a DMR dated and submitted no later than the 25th day of the month, following the completed reporting period beginning on the effective date of the permit.

6. Additional Monitoring by the Permittee

If the permittee monitors any pollutant more frequently than required by this permit, using test procedures approved under 40 C.F.R. Part 136 or as specified in this permit, the results of this monitoring shall be included in the calculation and reporting of the data submitted in the DMR. Such increased frequency shall also be indicated on the DMR.

7. **Retention of Records**

The permittee shall retain records of all monitoring information, including all calibration and maintenance records and all original strip chart recordings for continuous monitoring instrumentation, copies of all reports required by this permit, and records of all data used to complete the application for this permit for a period of at least 3 years from the date of the sample, measurement, report, or application. This period may be extended by request of the Director at any time.

8. **Record Contents**

Records and monitoring information shall include:

- A. The date, exact place, time and methods of sampling or measurements, and preservatives used, if any.
- B. The individual(s) who performed the sampling or measurements.
- C. The date(s) and time analyses were performed.
- D. The individual(s) who performed the analyses.
- E. The analytical techniques or methods used.
- F. The measurements and results of such analyses.

9. **Inspection and Entry**

The permittee shall allow the Director, or an authorized representative, upon the presentation of credentials and other documents as may be required by law, to:

- A. Enter upon the permittee's premises where a regulated facility or activity is located or conducted, or where records must be kept under the conditions of this permit.
- B. Have access to and copy, at reasonable times, any records that must be kept under the conditions of this permit.
- C. Inspect at reasonable times any facilities, equipment (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations regulated or required under this permit.
- D. Sample, inspect, or monitor at reasonable times, for the purposes of assuring permit compliance or as otherwise authorized by the Clean Water Act, any substances or parameters at any location.

SECTION D – REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

1. **Planned Changes**

The Permittee shall give notice to the Director as soon as possible but no later than 180 days prior to any planned physical alterations or additions to the permitted facility [40 C.F.R. § 122.41(1)]. Notice is required only when:

- A. The alteration or addition to a permitted facility may meet one of the criteria for new sources at 40 C.F.R. § 122.29(b).
- B. The alteration or addition could significantly change the nature or increase the quantity of pollutants discharged. This notification applies to pollutants which are subject

neither to effluent limitations in the permit, nor to the notification requirements under 40 C.F.R. § 122.42(b).

2. **Anticipated Noncompliance**

The permittee shall give advance notice to the Director of any planned changes in the permitted facility or activity which may result in noncompliance with permit requirements.

3. **Transfers**

The permit is nontransferable to any person except after notice to the Director. The Director may require modification or revocation and reissuance of the permit to change the name of the permittee and incorporate such other requirements as may be necessary under the Act.

4. **Monitoring Reports**

Monitoring results shall be reported at the intervals and in the form specified in Part III.C.5. **Discharge Monitoring Reports must be submitted even when no discharge occurs during the reporting period.**

5. **Compliance Schedule**

Reports of compliance or noncompliance with, or any progress reports on, interim and final requirements contained in any compliance schedule of this permit shall be submitted no later than 14 days following each schedule date. Any reports of noncompliance shall include the cause of noncompliance, any remedial actions taken, and the probability of meeting the next scheduled requirement.

6. **Twenty-four Hour Report**

Please be aware that the notifications can be sent by email to water-enforcement-report@adeq.state.ar.us or at 501-682-0624 for immediate reporting:

A. The permittee shall report any noncompliance which may endanger health or the environment within 24 hours from the time the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances to the Enforcement Branch of the Office of Water Quality of DEQ. A written submission shall also be provided within 5 days of the time the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances. The written submission shall contain the following information:

1. A description of the noncompliance and its cause.
2. The period of noncompliance, including exact dates and times, and if the noncompliance has not been corrected, the anticipated time it is expected to continue.
3. Steps taken or planned to reduce, eliminate, and prevent reoccurrence of the noncompliance.

B. The following must be reported within 24 hours:

1. Any unanticipated bypass which exceeds any effluent limitation in the permit.
2. Any upset which exceeds any effluent limitation in the permit.

3. Violation of a maximum daily discharge limitation for any of the pollutants listed by the Director in Part I of the permit.

C. The Director may waive the written report on a case-by-case basis if the notification has been received within 24 hours to the Enforcement Branch of the Office of Water Quality of the DEQ.

7. **Other Noncompliance**

The permittee shall report all instances of noncompliance not reported under Parts III.D.4, 5, and 6, at the time monitoring reports are submitted. The reports shall contain the information listed at Part III.D.6.

8. **Changes in Discharge of Toxic Substances for Industrial Dischargers including Existing Manufacturing, Commercial, Mining, and Silvicultural Dischargers**

The Director shall be notified as soon as the permittee knows or has reason to believe:

A. That any activity has occurred or will occur which would result in the discharge on a routine or frequent basis of any toxic pollutant including those listed in 40 C.F.R. § 401.15 which is not limited in the permit, if that discharge will exceed the highest of the “notification levels” described in 40 C.F.R. § 122.42(a)(1).

B. That any activity has occurred or will occur which would result in any discharge on a non-routine or infrequent basis of a toxic pollutant including those listed in 40 C.F.R. § 401.15 which is not limited in the permit, if that discharge will exceed the highest of the “notification levels” described in 40 C.F.R. § 122.42(a)(2).

9. **Duty to Provide Information**

The permittee shall furnish to the Director, within a reasonable time, any information which the Director may request to determine whether cause exists for modifying, revoking and reissuing, or terminating this permit, or to determine compliance with this permit. The permittee shall also furnish to the Director, upon request, copies of records required to be kept by this permit. Information shall be submitted in the form, manner and time frame requested by the Director.

10. **Duty to Reapply**

If the permittee wishes to continue an activity regulated by this permit after the expiration date of this permit, the permittee must apply for and obtain a new permit. The complete application shall be submitted at least 180 days before the expiration date of this permit. The Director may grant permission to submit an application less than 180 days in advance but no later than the permit expiration date. Continuation of expiring permits shall be implemented through procedures outlined by APC&EC Rule 6.

11. Signatory Requirements

All applications, reports, or information submitted to the Director shall be signed and certified as follows:

A. All **permit applications** shall be signed as follows:

1. For a corporation: by a responsible corporate officer. For the purpose of this section, a responsible corporate officer means:
 - (a) A president, secretary, treasurer, or vice-president of the corporation in charge of a principal business function, or any other person who performs similar policy or decision-making functions for the corporation.
 - (b) The manager of one or more manufacturing, production, or operation facilities, provided: the manager is authorized to make management decisions which govern the operation of the regulated facility including having the explicit or implicit duty of making major capital investment recommendations, and initiating and directing other comprehensive measures to assure long term environmental compliance with environmental laws and regulations; the manager can ensure that the necessary systems are established or actions taken to gather complete and accurate information for permit application requirements; and where authority to sign documents has been assigned or delegated to the manager in accordance with corporate procedures.
2. For a partnership or sole proprietorship: by a general partner or proprietor, respectively.
3. For a municipality, State, Federal, or other public agency, by either a principal executive officer or ranking elected official. For purposes of this section, a principal executive officer of a Federal agency includes:
 - (a) The chief executive officer of the agency.
 - (b) A senior executive officer having responsibility for the overall operations of a principal geographic unit of the agency.

B. All **reports** required by the permit and **other information** requested by the Director shall be signed by a person described above or by a duly authorized representative of that person. A person is a duly authorized representative only if:

1. The authorization is made in writing by a person described above.
2. The authorization specified either an individual or a position having responsibility for the overall operation of the regulated facility or activity, such as the position of plant manager, operator of a well or a well field, superintendent, or position of equivalent responsibility. (A duly authorized representative may thus be either a named individual or any individual occupying a named position).
3. The written authorization is submitted to the Director.

- C. Certification. Any person signing a document under this section shall make the following certification:

“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.”

12. **Availability of Reports**

Except for data determined to be confidential under 40 C.F.R. Part 2 and APC&EC Rule 6, all reports prepared in accordance with the terms of this permit shall be available for public inspection at the offices of the Division of Environmental Quality. As required by the Regulations, the name and address of any permit applicant or permittee, permit applications, permits, and effluent data shall not be considered confidential.

13. **Penalties for Falsification of Reports**

The Arkansas Air and Water Pollution Control Act provides that any person who knowingly makes any false statement, representation, or certification in any application, record, report, plan, or other document filed or required to be maintained under this permit shall be subject to civil penalties specified in Part III.A.2 and/or criminal penalties under the authority of the Arkansas Water and Air Pollution Control Act (Ark. Code Ann. § 8-4-101 et seq.).

14. **Other Information**

Where the permittee becomes aware that it failed to submit any relevant facts in a permit application, or submitted incorrect information in a permit application or in any report to the Director, it shall promptly submit such facts or information.

PART IV DEFINITIONS

All definitions contained in Section 502 of the Clean Water Act and 40 C.F.R. § 122.2 shall apply to this permit and are incorporated herein by reference. Additional definitions of words or phrases used in this permit are as follows:

1. **“7-Day Average”** also known as “average weekly,” means the highest allowable average of “daily discharges” over a calendar week, calculated as the sum of all “daily discharges” measured during a calendar week divided by the number of “daily discharges” measured during that week. The 7-Day Average for Fecal Coliform Bacteria (FCB) or E-Coli is the geometric mean of the “daily discharges” of all effluent samples collected during a calendar week in MPN per 100 ml or colonies per 100 ml.
2. **“Act”** means the Clean Water Act, Public Law 95-217 (33.U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) as amended.
3. **“Administrator”** means the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
4. **“APC&EC”** means the Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission.
5. **“Applicable effluent standards and limitations”** means all State and Federal effluent standards and limitations to which a discharge is subject under the Act, including, but not limited to, effluent limitations, standards of performance, toxic effluent standards and prohibitions, and pretreatment standards.
6. **“Applicable water quality standards”** means all water quality standards to which a discharge is subject under the federal Clean Water Act and which has been (a) approved or permitted to remain in effect by the Administrator following submission to the Administrator pursuant to Section 303(a) of the Act, or (b) promulgated by the Director pursuant to Section 303(b) or 303(c) of the Act, and standards promulgated under (APC&EC) Rule 2, as amended.
7. **“Best Management Practices (BMPs)”** are activities, practices, maintenance procedures, and other management practices designed to prevent or reduce the pollution of waters of the State. BMPs also include treatment technologies, operating procedures, and practices to control plant site runoff, spillage or leaks, sludge or waste disposal, or drainage from raw sewage. BMPs may include structural devices or nonstructural practices.
8. **“Bypass”** means the intentional diversion of waste streams from any portion of a treatment facility, as defined at 40 C.F.R. § 122.41(m)(1)(i).
9. **“Composite sample”** is a mixture of grab samples collected at the same sampling point at different times, formed either by continuous sampling or by mixing a minimum of 4 effluent portions collected at equal time intervals (but not closer than one hour apart) during operational hours, within the 24-hour period, and combined proportional to flow or a sample collected at more frequent intervals proportional to flow over the 24-hour period.
10. **“CV”** means coefficient of variation.
11. **“Daily Discharge”** means the discharge of a pollutant measured during a calendar day or any 24-hour period that reasonably represents the calendar day for purposes of sampling.
 - A. **Mass Calculations:** For pollutants with limitations expressed in terms of mass, the “daily discharge” is calculated as the total mass of pollutant discharged over the sampling day.
 - B. **Concentration Calculations:** For pollutants with limitations expressed in other units of measurement, the “daily discharge” is calculated as the average measurement of the pollutant over the day.
12. **“Daily Maximum”** discharge limitation means the highest allowable “daily discharge” during the calendar month.

13. **“Director”** means the Director of the Division of Environmental Quality.
14. **“Dissolved oxygen limit”** shall be defined as follows:
 - A. When limited in the permit as a minimum monthly average, shall mean the lowest acceptable monthly average value, determined by averaging all samples taken during the calendar month.
 - B. When limited in the permit as an instantaneous minimum value, shall mean that no value measured during the reporting period may fall below the stated value.
15. **“Division”** means the Division of Environmental Quality (**DEQ**).
16. **“E. coli”** a sample consists of one effluent grab portion collected during a 24-hour period at peak loads. For *E. coli*, report the Daily Maximum as the highest “daily discharge” during the calendar month and the Monthly Average as the geometric mean of all “daily discharges” within a calendar month, in MPN per 100 ml or colonies per 100 ml.
17. **“Fecal Coliform Bacteria (FCB)”** a sample consists of one effluent grab portion collected during a 24-hour period at peak loads. For FCB, report the Daily Maximum as the highest “daily discharge” during the calendar month and the Monthly Average as the geometric mean of all “daily discharges” within a calendar month, in MPN per 100 ml or colonies per 100 ml.
18. **“Grab sample”** means an individual sample collected in less than 15 minutes in conjunction with an instantaneous flow measurement.
19. **“Industrial User”** means a nondomestic discharger, as identified in 40 C.F.R. Part 403, introducing pollutants to a publicly owned treatment works (POTW).
20. **“Instantaneous flow measurement”** means the flow measured during the minimum time required for the flow-measuring device or method to produce a result in that instance. To the extent practical, instantaneous flow measurements coincide with the collection of any grab samples required for the same sampling period so that together the samples and flow are representative of the discharge during that sampling period.
21. **“Instantaneous Maximum”** when limited in the permit as an instantaneous maximum value, shall mean that no value measured during the reporting period may fall above the stated value.
22. **“Instantaneous Minimum”** an instantaneous minimum value, shall mean that no value measured during the reporting period may fall below the stated value.
23. **“Monitoring and Reporting”**

When a permit becomes effective, monitoring requirements are of the immediate period of the permit effective date. Where the monitoring requirement for an effluent characteristic is monthly or more frequently, the Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) shall be submitted by the 25th of the month following the sampling. Where the monitoring requirement for an effluent characteristic is Quarterly, Semi-Annual, Annual, or Yearly, the DMR shall be submitted by the 25th of the month following the monitoring period end date.

 - A. **MONTHLY:**

is defined as a calendar month or any portion of a calendar month for monitoring requirement frequency of once/month or more frequently.
 - B. **BI-MONTHLY:**

is defined as two (2) calendar months or any portion of 2 calendar months for monitoring requirement frequency of once/2 months or more frequently.
 - C. **QUARTERLY:**
 1. is defined as a **fixed calendar quarter** or any part of the fixed calendar quarter for a non-seasonal effluent characteristic with a measurement frequency of once/quarter. Fixed calendar quarters are: January through March, April through June, July through September, and October through December.

2. is defined as a **fixed three month period** (or any part of the fixed three month period) of or dependent upon the seasons specified in the permit for a seasonal effluent characteristic with a monitoring requirement frequency of once/quarter that does not coincide with the fixed calendar quarter. Seasonal calendar quarters are: May through July, August through October, November through January, and February through April.

D. SEMI-ANNUAL:

is defined as the fixed time periods January through June, and July through December (or any portion thereof) for an effluent characteristic with a measurement frequency of once/6 months.

E. ANNUAL or YEARLY:

is defined as a fixed calendar year or any portion of the fixed calendar year for an effluent characteristic or parameter with a measurement frequency of once/year. A calendar year is January through December, or any portion thereof.

24. **“Monthly Average”** means the highest allowable average of “daily discharges” over a calendar month, calculated as the sum of all “daily discharges” measured during a calendar month divided by the number of “daily discharges” measured during that month. For Fecal Coliform Bacteria (FCB) or *E. coli*, report the Monthly Average as the geometric mean of all “daily discharges” within a calendar month.
25. **“National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)”** means the national program for issuing, modifying, revoking and reissuing, terminating, monitoring and enforcing permits, and imposing and enforcing pretreatment requirements under Sections 307, 402, 318, and 405 of the Clean Water Act.
26. **“NOEC”** means No Observed Effect Concentration.
27. **“PMSD”** means Percent Minimum Significant Difference.
28. **“POTW”** means Publicly Owned Treatment Works;
29. **“Reduction of CBOD₅/BOD₅ and TSS in mg/l Formula”**
[(Influent – Effluent) / Influent] × 100
30. **“Severe property damage”** means substantial physical damage to property, damage to the treatment facilities which causes them to become inoperable, or substantial and permanent loss of natural resources which can reasonably be expected to occur in the absence of a bypass. Severe property damage does not mean economic loss caused by delays in products.
31. **“Sewage sludge”** means the solids, residues, and precipitate separated from or created in sewage by the unit processes at a POTW. Sewage as used in this definition means any wastes, including wastes from humans, households, commercial establishments, industries, and stormwater runoff that are discharged to or otherwise enter a POTW.
32. **“Treatment works”** means any devices and systems used in storage, treatment, recycling, and reclamation of municipal sewage and industrial wastes, of a liquid nature to implement section 201 of the Act, or necessary to recycle reuse water at the most economic cost over the estimated life of the works, including intercepting sewers, sewage collection systems, pumping, power and other equipment, and alterations thereof; elements essential to provide a reliable recycled supply such as standby treatment units and clear well facilities, and any works, including site acquisition of the land that will be an integral part of the treatment process or is used for ultimate disposal of residues resulting from such treatment.
33. **Units of Measure:**
 - “MGD”** shall mean million gallons per day.
 - “mg/l”** shall mean milligrams per liter or parts per million (ppm).
 - “µg/l”** shall mean micrograms per liter or parts per billion (ppb).

“cfs” shall mean cubic feet per second.

“ppm” shall mean parts per million.

“s.u.” shall mean standard units.

34. **“Upset”** means an exceptional incident in which there is unintentional and temporary noncompliance with technology-based permit effluent limitations because of factors beyond the reasonable control of the permittee. Any upset does not include noncompliance to the extent caused by operational error, improperly designed treatment facilities, lack of preventive maintenance, or careless, or improper operations.
35. **“Visible sheen”** means the presence of a film or sheen upon or a discoloration of the surface of the discharge. A sheen can also be from a thin glistening layer of oil on the surface of the discharge.
36. **“Week”** means a calendar week, consisting of the 7-day period of Sunday through Saturday.
37. **“Weekday”** means Monday – Friday.

Final Fact Sheet

This Fact Sheet is for information and justification of the permit requirements only. Please note that it is not enforceable. This permitting decision is for the renewal of discharge Permit Number AR0021806 with Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment – Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Arkansas Facility Identification Number (AFIN) 60-00409 to discharge to Waters of the State.

1. PERMITTING AUTHORITY

The issuing office is:

Division of Environmental Quality
5301 Northshore Drive
North Little Rock, Arkansas 72118-5317

2. APPLICANT

The applicant's mailing address is:

Little Rock Water Reclamation Authority - Adams Field Water Reclamation Facility
11 Clearwater Drive
Little Rock, AR 72204

The facility address is:

Little Rock Water Reclamation Authority - Adams Field Water Reclamation Facility
1001 Temple Street
Little Rock, AR 72202

3. PREPARED BY

The permit was prepared by:

Zachary Carroll, PhD, P.E.
Engineer Supervisor
NPDES Discharge Permits Section
Office of Water Quality
(501) 682-0625
E-mail: zachary.carroll@adeq.state.ar.us

4. PERMIT ACTIVITY

Previous Permit Effective Date:	January 1, 2018
Previous Permit 1 st Major Modification Date:	January 1, 2020
Previous Permit 2 nd Major Modification Date:	June 16, 2021
Previous Permit Minor Modification Date:	December 15, 2021
Previous Permit Expiration Date:	December 31, 2022

The permittee submitted a permit renewal application on June 13, 2022, with all additional information received by June 14, 2022. The previous discharge permit is being reissued for a 5-year term in accordance with regulations promulgated at 40 C.F.R. § 122.46(a).

The Wet Weather Peak Flow Conditions were removed from the permit. These were interim conditions that were applicable prior to the construction of Parallel Treatment. Parallel Treatment has been constructed and is operational, so the Wet Weather Peak Flow Conditions are no longer necessary. [Notice of completion of construction was received on November 29, 2022](#). Additionally, the requirement to obtain a state construction permit and the condition limiting the flow until the UV system was expanded were removed from Part II.7 (Peak Flow Operations with Parallel Treatment condition) because the construction permit has been obtained and the UV system expansion is complete. [Notification of the UV system expansion completion was received on June 17, 2021](#).

DOCUMENT ABBREVIATIONS

In the document that follows, various abbreviations are used. They are as follows:

APC&EC - Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission

BAT - best available technology economically achievable

BCT - best conventional pollutant control technology

BMP - best management practice

BOD₅ - five-day biochemical oxygen demand

BPJ - best professional judgment

BPT - best practicable control technology currently available

CBOD₅ - carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand

CD - critical dilution

C.F.R. - Code of Federal Regulations

cfs - cubic feet per second

COD - chemical oxygen demand

COE - United States Corp of Engineers

CPP - continuing planning process

CWA - Clean Water Act

DMR - discharge monitoring report

DO - dissolved oxygen

ELG - effluent limitation guidelines

EPA - United States Environmental Protection Agency

ESA - Endangered Species Act

FCB - fecal coliform bacteria

gpm - gallons per minute

MGD - million gallons per day

MPN - most probable number

ML - minimum quantification level

NAICS - North American Industry Classification System

NH₃-N - ammonia nitrogen

NO₃ + NO₂-N - nitrate + nitrite nitrogen

NPDES - National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

O&G - oil and grease

Rule 2 - APC&EC Rule 2
Rule 6 - APC&EC Rule 6
Rule 8 - APC&EC Rule 8
Rule 9 - APC&EC Rule 9
RP - reasonable potential
SIC - standard industrial classification
SSO - sanitary sewer overflow
TDS - total dissolved solids
TMDL - total maximum daily load
TP - total phosphorus
TRC - total residual chlorine
TSS - total suspended solids
UAA - use attainability analysis
USF&WS - United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS - United States Geological Survey
WET - whole effluent toxicity
WQMP - water quality management plan
WQS - Water Quality standards
WWTP - wastewater treatment plant

Compliance and Enforcement History:

The compliance and enforcement history for this facility can be reviewed by using the following web link:

https://www.adeg.state.ar.us/downloads/WebDatabases/PermitsOnline/NPDES/PermitInformation/AR0021806_Enforcement%20Review_20220826.pdf

5. SIGNIFICANT CHANGES FROM THE PREVIOUSLY ISSUED PERMIT

The permittee is responsible for carefully reading the permit in detail and becoming familiar with all of the changes therein:

1. FCB limits are now expressed as MPN or colonies per 100 ml. See Section 12.A of this Fact Sheet for details.
2. Monitoring frequencies for CBOD₅ (May-Oct), BOD₅ (Nov-Apr), and TSS (year-round) were changed from three/week to once/week. Monitoring frequencies for FCB (year-round) were changed from two/week to once/week. See Section 15 of this Fact Sheet for details.
3. Monitoring frequencies for NO₃+NO₂-N and TP were changed to once/year, and the sample types were changed to composite. See Section 15 of this Fact Sheet for details.
4. All mass limits are now expressed to the nearest tenth of a pound per day and TSS concentration limits are expressed to 3 significant digits in accordance with "OWQ Guidelines for Decimal Places and Rounding Conventions in NPDES Permits."
5. The schedule of compliance for CBOD₅ and NH₃-N limits in Part I.B of the permit was removed.
6. Definitions specific to calculating percent removal were moved from Part IV of the permit to Part II.2 of the permit.

7. The Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) reporting requirements in Part II.5 of the permit were updated.
8. The Wet Weather Peak Flow Conditions (Part II.7 of the previous permit) were removed. See Section 4 of this Fact Sheet for details.
9. The requirement to obtain a state construction permit and the condition limiting the flow until the new UV system construction was completed were removed from Part II.7 (Peak Flow Operations with Parallel Treatment condition). See Section 4 of this Fact Sheet for details.
10. The requirement to provide notification of the first use of PAA (Part II.12 of the previous permit) was removed.
11. Part II.10 of the permit (pretreatment condition) was updated.
12. Part II.11 of the permit (WET condition) was updated.
13. An email address and phone number for 24-hour reporting was added to Part III.D.6 of the permit.
14. Parts III.A.5, III.A.10, and III.D.8 of the permit were updated.

6. RECEIVING STREAM SEGMENT AND DISCHARGE LOCATION

The outfall is located at the following coordinates based on the previous permit, and confirmed with Google Earth using WGS84:

Latitude: 34° 44' 32" N; Longitude: 92° 12' 36" W

The receiving waters named:

Arkansas River in Segment 3C of the Arkansas River Basin. The receiving stream with Assessment Unit AR_11110207_011 is a Water of the State classified for primary and secondary contact recreation, raw water source for domestic (public and private), industrial, and agricultural water supplies; propagation of desirable species of fish and other aquatic life; and other compatible uses.

7. 303(d) LIST, TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS, ENDANGERED SPECIES, AND ANTI-DEGRADATION CONSIDERATIONS

A. 303(d) List

The receiving stream is not listed on the 2018 303(d) list.

B. Applicable Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Reports

There are no applicable TMDLs for the receiving stream.

C. Endangered Species

No comments on the application were received from the USF&WS. The draft permit and Fact Sheet were sent to the USF&WS for their review.

D. Anti-Degradation

The limitations and requirements set forth in this permit for discharge into waters of the State are consistent with the Anti-degradation Policy and all other applicable water quality standards found in APC&EC Rule 2.

8. OUTFALL, TREATMENT PROCESS DESCRIPTION, AND FACILITY CONSTRUCTION

The following is a description of the facility described in the application:

A. Design Flow: 36 MGD

B. Type of Treatment: bar screens, scum & grit removal, equalization basin, primary clarification, step-feed activated sludge, secondary clarification, optional dual-use filtration, parallel treatment for peak flow operations, UV disinfection supplemented with Peracetic Acid disinfection during periods of low UV transmittance, intermittent effluent pumping, and sludge thickening.

i. Optional dual-use filtration shall be in accordance with Part II.8 of the permit.

ii. Optional Use of Peracetic Acid (PAA) is as follows:

a. Supplemental Disinfection – Use of PAA with the UV system during periods of low UV transmittance

b. Primary Disinfection – Use of PAA as the primary disinfectant in case of UV system failures

C. Discharge Description: treated municipal wastewater

D. Facility Status: This facility is classified as a major municipal since the design flow of the facility listed above is greater than 1.0 MGD.

E. Facility Construction: This permit does not authorize or approve the construction or modification of any part of the treatment system or facilities. Approval for such construction must be by permit issued under Rule 6.202.

9. ACTIVITY

Under the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code of 4952 or North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code of 221320, the applicant's activities are the operation of a sewage treatment plant.

10. INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER CONTRIBUTIONS

This facility receives industrial process wastewater. Based on the applicant's effluent compliance history and the type of industrial contributions, standard Pretreatment Program implementation conditions are deemed appropriate at this time.

11. SEWAGE SLUDGE PRACTICES

All primary and waste-activated sludge from all three LRWRA plants is ultimately processed at the Fourche Creek facility (NPDES permit number AR0040177). The sludge generated at the Fourche Creek Treatment Facility is combined with transferred sludge from the Adams Field Treatment Facility, where it is then processed through four (4) circular gravity thickeners, six (6) primary anaerobic digesters, and two (2) secondary anaerobic digesters. A portion of the sludge from the circular gravity thickeners is further thickened by a gravity belt thickener before being sent to the primary anaerobic digesters. Sludge from the anaerobic digesters is further thickened in sludge holding lagoons. The water from the sludge holding lagoons is decanted and recycled back to the Fourche Creek Treatment Facility process.

The treated sludge (biosolids) are removed from the lagoons as needed and land applied on permitted site(s) under no-discharge permit numbers 5321-W, 5368-W, 5379-W, or 4665-WR, or successor permits.

Biosolids meeting Class A Exceptional Quality (EQ) standards may also be distributed for land application by other parties. The facility will provide EQ certification to EPA Region VI in accordance with 40 C.F.R. Part 503 prior to distributing any EQ Biosolids. A copy of this certification shall be sent to the Permits Branch of the Office of Water Quality of the DEQ.

12. DEVELOPMENT AND BASIS FOR PERMIT CONDITIONS

The Division of Environmental Quality has determined to issue a permit for the discharge described in the application. Permit requirements are based on federal regulations (40 C.F.R. Parts 122, 124, and Subchapter N), the National Pretreatment Regulation in 40 C.F.R. Part 403 and regulations promulgated pursuant to the Arkansas Water and Air Pollution Control Act (Ark. Code Ann. § 8-4-101 et seq.). All of the information contained in the application, including all of the submitted effluent testing data, was reviewed to determine the need for effluent limits and other permit requirements.

The following is an explanation of the derivation of the conditions of the permit and the reasons for them or, in the case of notices of intent to deny or terminate, reasons suggesting the decisions as required under 40 C.F.R. § 124.7.

Technology-Based Versus Water Quality-Based Effluent Limitations and Conditions

Following regulations promulgated at 40 C.F.R. § 122.44, the permit limits are based on either technology-based effluent limits pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 122.44(a) or on State water quality standards and requirements pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 122.44(d), whichever are more stringent as follows:

Parameter	Water Quality-Based		Technology-Based		Previous Permit		Final Permit Limit	
	Monthly Avg. mg/l	7-Day Avg. mg/l	Monthly Avg. mg/l	7-Day Avg. mg/l	Monthly Avg. mg/l	7-Day Avg. mg/l	Monthly Avg. mg/l	7-Day Avg. mg/l
BOD ₅								
(November – April)	>30*	N/A	30	45	30	45	30	45
CBOD ₅								
(May – October)	>25*	N/A	25	40	25	40	25	40
TSS	N/A	N/A	30.0	45.0	30	45	30.0	45.0
NH ₃ -N								
(May – October)	11.9	29.7	N/A	N/A	11.9	29.7	11.9	29.7
FCB (MPN or col/100 ml)								
(May – September)	200	400	N/A	N/A	200	400	200	400
(October – April)	1000	2000	N/A	N/A	1000	2000	1000	2000
PAA (Inst. Max)	2.0		N/A		2.0		2.0	
TP	N/A	N/A	Report	Report	Report	Report	Report	Report
NO ₃ + NO ₂ - N	N/A	N/A	Report	Report	Report	Report	Report	Report
pH	6.0-9.0 s.u.		6.0-9.0 s.u.		6.0-9.0 s.u.		6.0-9.0 s.u.	
Chronic WET Testing	N/A		Report		Report		Report	

* Technology-based limit modeled to verify compliance with water quality criteria

A. Justification for Limitations and Conditions of the Final Permit

Parameter	Water Quality or Technology	Justification
BOD ₅ (Nov-Apr)	Technology	40 C.F.R. § 133.102(a), Water Quality Model dated July 15, 2016 (and reviewed September 15, 2022), 40 C.F.R. § 122.44(l), and previous permit
CBOD ₅ (May-Oct)	Technology	40 C.F.R. § 133.102(a), Water Quality Model dated July 15, 2016 (and reviewed September 15, 2022), 40 C.F.R. § 122.44(l), and previous permit
TSS	Technology	40 C.F.R. § 133.102(b), 40 C.F.R. § 122.44(l), and previous permit
NH ₃ -N (May-Oct)	Water Quality	Rule 2.512, Water Quality Model dated July 15, 2016 (and reviewed September 15, 2022), CWA § 402(o), and previous permit
FCB	Water Quality	Rule 2.507, CWA § 402(o), and previous permit
PAA	Technology	Rule 2.409, Pilot Study*, 40 C.F.R. § 122.44(l), and previous permit

Parameter	Water Quality or Technology	Justification
TP**	Technology	CPP (Appendix D, page D-9), CWA § 402(o), and previous permit
NO ₃ + NO ₂ – N**	Technology	CPP (Appendix D, page D-9), CWA § 402(o), and previous permit
pH	Water Quality	Rule 2.504, CWA § 402(o), and previous permit
Chronic WET Testing	Technology	CPP Appendix D (page D-27), CPP Attachment X

* [“Adams Field Treatment Facility PAA Pilot Study – Little Rock Wastewater,”](#) September 25, 2015, Garver, LLC, and [“Adams Field PAA Trial – Final Report – Little Rock Water Reclamation Authority,”](#) July 2018, Garver, LLC

** The existing statewide, ambient, water quality monitoring network provides in-stream nutrient concentration and loading data based on monitored flow. In order to establish a database of point source loadings of nutrients to waters of the state, major municipal facilities will include nutrient monitoring for Nitrite + Nitrate – Nitrogen and Total Phosphorus based on the Nutrient Control Implementation Plan in Appendix D of CPP (Page D-9).

As detailed in the [Other Specified Monitoring Requirements letter dated January 25, 2019](#), FCB results may be reported either as MPN per 100 ml or colonies per 100 ml.

B. Anti-backsliding

The permit is consistent with the requirements to meet Anti-backsliding provisions of the Clean Water Act (CWA), Section 402(o) [40 C.F.R. § 122.44(l)]. The final effluent limitations for reissuance permits must be as stringent as those in the previous permit, unless the less stringent limitations can be justified using exceptions listed in CWA 402(o)(2), CWA 303(d)(4), or 40 C.F.R. § 122.44(l)(2)(i).

The permit meets or exceeds the requirements of the previous permit.

C. Limits Calculations

1. Mass Limits:

In accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 122.45(f)(1), all pollutants limited in permits shall have limitations expressed in terms of mass if feasible. 40 C.F.R. § 122.45(f)(2) allows for pollutants which are limited in terms of mass to also be limited in terms of other units of measurement.

The calculation of the loadings (lbs per day) uses a design flow of 36 MGD and the following equation:

$$\text{Mass (lbs/day)} = \text{Concentration (mg/l)} \times \text{Flow (MGD)} \times 8.34$$

2. 7-Day Average Limits:

The 7-day average limits for BOD₅, CBOD₅, and TSS are based on 40 C.F.R. § 133.102(a)(2), 40 C.F.R. § 133.102(a)(4)(ii), and 40 C.F.R. § 133.102(b)(2), respectively.

The 7-day average $\text{NH}_3\text{-N}$ limit for the months of May through October is based on the requirements of Rule 2.512.

The 7-Day average limits for FCB are based on Rule 2.507.

D. 208 Plan (Water Quality Management Plan)

The 208 Plan, developed by the DEQ under provisions of Section 208 of the federal Clean Water Act, is a comprehensive program to work toward achieving federal water goals in Arkansas. The initial 208 Plan, adopted in 1979, provides for annual updates, but can be revised more often if necessary.

There are no changes to the 208 Plan occurring with this permit renewal.

E. Priority Pollutant Scan (PPS)

DEQ has reviewed and evaluated the effluent in accordance with the potential toxicity of each analyzed pollutant using the procedures outlined in the Continuing Planning Process (CPP).

The concentration of each pollutant after mixing with the receiving stream was compared to the applicable water quality standards as established in the Arkansas Water Quality Standards (AWQS), Rule 2 (Rule 2.508) and criteria obtained from the “Quality Criteria for Water, 1986 (Gold Book).”

Under Federal Regulation 40 C.F.R. § 122.44(d), as adopted by Rule 6, if a discharge poses the reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an exceedance above a water quality standard, the permit must contain an effluent limitation for that pollutant. Effluent limitations for the toxicants listed below have been derived in a manner consistent with the Technical Support Document (TSD) for Water Quality-based Toxics Control (EPA, March 1991), the CPP, and 40 C.F.R. § 122.45(c).

The following items were used in calculations:

Parameter	Value	Source
Discharge Flow = Q	36 MGD = 55.7 cfs	Application
critical flow, 7Q10	819 cfs	USGS Station 07263450
Harmonic Mean Flow	6870 cfs	USGS Station 07263450
TSS	3.0 mg/l	CPP, Attachment V
Hardness as CaCO_3	25 mg/l	CPP, Attachment VI
Q_b background flow, Mixing zone flow for chronic toxicity	0.25 of 7Q10	Rule 2.508 and CPP-Appendix D
Q_b background flow, ZID flow for acute toxicity	0.06 of 7Q10	Rule 2.508 and CPP-Appendix D

Parameter	Value	Source
Q _b background flow, for bioaccumulation criteria	Harmonic Mean Flow	CPP-Appendix D
Q _b background flow, for drinking water criteria	7Q10	CPP-Appendix D

The following pollutants were reported above detection levels:

Pollutant ¹	Concentration Reported, µg/l ²	Number of Samples	MQL, µg/l
Arsenic, TR	3.8	18	0.5
Cadmium, TR	0.5	18	0.5
Chromium, TR	10.3	18	10
Copper, TR	6.1	18	0.5
Lead, TR	0.5	18	0.5
Mercury, TR	0.058	17	0.0002
Nickel, TR	2.8	18	0.5
Zinc, TR	33.9	18	20
Total Phenolic Compounds	4.7	11	5
Chloroform	5.9	5	10

¹ TR designates "Total Recoverable."

² "Average Daily Discharge" reported on EPA Form 2A.

Background concentrations (C_b) were based on the geometric mean of monitoring data from DEQ Station ARK0029:

Pollutant ¹	Background Concentration, µg/l
Arsenic, TR	1.51
Cadmium, TR	0.332 ²
Chromium, TR	0.569
Copper, TR	1.47
Lead, TR	0.529
Mercury, TR	0 ³
Nickel, TR	1.34
Zinc, TR	2.8
Total Phenolic Compounds	0 ³
Chloroform	0 ³

¹ TR designates "Total Recoverable."

² Only dissolved Cadmium was detected at this station. The dissolved Cadmium measurement was converted to a total Cadmium value using the equation in Rule 2.508.

³ No monitoring data was available. In accordance with the Strategy for Addressing Background Concentrations in Appendix D of the CPP, the background concentration was assumed to be zero.

Instream Waste Concentrations (IWCs) were calculated in the manner described in Appendix D of the CPP and compared to the applicable Criteria. The following tables summarize the results of the analysis. The complete evaluation can be viewed on the Division's website at the following address:

https://www.adeg.state.ar.us/downloads/WebDatabases/PermitsOnline/NPDES/PermitInformation/AR0021806_PPS%20Spreadsheet_20220902.pdf

1. Aquatic Toxicity Evaluation

a. Acute Criteria Evaluation

Pollutant ¹	Concentration Reported (C _e) µg/l	C _e × 2.13 ²	Instream Waste Concentration (IWC)	Criteria ³	Reasonable Potential (Yes/No)
			Acute, µg/l	Acute, µg/l	
Cadmium, TR	0.5	1.1	0.72	3.7	No
Chromium, TR	10.3	22	12	816	No
Copper, TR	6.1	13	7.6	11	No
Lead, TR	0.5	1.1	0.81	62	No
Mercury, TR	0.006	0.012	0.0	7.1	No
Nickel, TR	2.8	6.0	3.8	782	No
Zinc, TR	33.9	72	40	97	No

¹ TR designates "Total Recoverable."

² Statistical ratio used to estimate the 95th percentile using a single effluent concentration or the geometric mean of a dataset.

³ Criteria are from Rule 2.508.

b. Chronic Criteria Evaluation

Pollutant ¹	Concentration Reported (C _e) µg/l	C _e × 2.13 ²	Instream Waste Concentration (IWC)	Criteria ³	Reasonable Potential (Yes/No)
			Chronic, µg/l	Chronic, µg/l	
Cadmium, TR	0.5	1.1	0.49	1.6	No
Chromium, TR	10.3	22	5.1	265	No
Copper, TR	6.1	13	3.9	8.3	No
Lead, TR	0.5	1.1	0.64	2.4	No
Mercury, TR	0.006	0.012	0.0	0.012	No
Nickel, TR	2.8	6.0	2.3	87	No
Zinc, TR	33.9	72	18	88	No

¹ TR designates "Total Recoverable."

² Statistical ratio used to estimate the 95th percentile using a single effluent concentration or the geometric mean of a dataset.

³ Criteria are from Rule 2.508.

2. Human Health (Bioaccumulation) Evaluation

Pollutant	Concentration Reported (C_e) $\mu\text{g/l}$	$C_e \times 2.13^1$	Instream Waste Concentration (IWC)	Criteria ²	Reasonable Potential (Yes/No)
Arsenic, Total Recoverable	3.8	8.1	1.6	1.4	Yes
Total Phenolic Compounds	4.7	10	0.081	-	No
Chloroform	5.9	13	0.10	20000	No

¹ Statistical ratio used to estimate the 95th percentile using a single effluent concentration or the geometric mean of a dataset.

² Unless otherwise specified, criteria are adapted from "[National Recommended Water Quality Criteria – Human Health Criteria Table](#)," EPA. The respective WQC from the noted reference are Consumption of Organism Only values. The values from the reference are for a lifetime risk factor of 10^{-6} . These values have been multiplied by 10 to correspond to human health criteria lifetime risk factor of 10^{-5} as stated in Rule 2.508.

3. Human Health (Drinking Water) Evaluation

Pollutant	Concentration Reported (C_e) $\mu\text{g/l}$	$C_e \times 2.13^1$	Instream Waste Concentration (IWC)	Criteria ²	Reasonable Potential (Yes/No)
TTHMs ³	5.9	13	0.80	80	No

¹ Statistical ratio used to estimate the 95th percentile using a single effluent concentration or the geometric mean of a dataset.

² Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) specified in the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations.

³ Total Trihalomethanes. Chloroform was the only Trihalomethane detected in the effluent, so the TTHM concentration used in this evaluation is equal to the chloroform concentration.

As can be seen in the tables above, the calculated IWC for Arsenic is higher than the EPA Water Quality Criterion. A.C.A. § 8-4-216 authorizes the Division to require the submission of any information relevant to meeting the requirements of the Arkansas Water and Air Pollution Control Act. The pretreatment condition in Part II.10.C of the permit requires the permittee to conduct quarterly monitoring of all pollutants listed in 40 C.F.R. § 122 Appendix D Table III, which includes Arsenic, in the influent and effluent and submit this data to the Division on annual pretreatment reports. Therefore, in the event that a WQS for Arsenic is added to Rule 2.508, data will be available to perform a reasonable potential analysis. This satisfies the requirements in Appendix D of the CPP (Appendix D, Part IV – Chemical Specific Standards and Criteria, Section E – Protection of Human Health Criteria of the Discharge Permit, Toxic Control Implementation Procedure).

The CPP requires that for all pollutants for which there are no applicable state water standards, IWCs are to be compared with the EPA Human Health Criteria (fish consumption only). If dilution calculations show that the in-stream concentration exceeds these criteria, the permit will require the permittee to monitor and report for the pollutant of concern once per quarter for one year only. However, the permit already requires quarterly monitoring of Arsenic as part of the pretreatment requirements in Part II.10.C of the permit, so no additional permitting action is necessary regarding Arsenic at this time. A reopener clause has been included in the permit (see Part II.3) to provide permit limits if state water quality standards

are developed for the applicable pollutants, and the data shows that there is a reasonable potential for the discharge to violate those water quality standards.

13. WHOLE EFFLUENT TOXICITY

Section 101(a)(3) of the Clean Water Act states that "...it is the national policy that the discharge of toxic pollutants in toxic amounts be prohibited." In addition, DEQ is required under 40 C.F.R. §122.44(d)(1), adopted by reference in Rule 6, to include conditions as necessary to achieve water quality standards as established under Section 303 of the Clean Water Act. Arkansas has established a narrative criteria which states "toxic materials shall not be present in receiving waters in such quantities as to be toxic to human, animal, plant or aquatic life or to interfere with the normal propagation, growth and survival of aquatic biota."

Whole effluent toxicity (WET) testing is the most direct measure of potential toxicity which incorporates the effects of synergism of effluent components and receiving stream water quality characteristics. It is the national policy of EPA to use bioassays as a measure of toxicity to allow evaluation of the effects of a discharge upon a receiving water (49 Federal Register 9016-9019, March 9, 1984). EPA Region 6 and the State of Arkansas are now implementing the Post Third Round Policy and Strategy established on September 9, 1992, and EPA Region 6 Post-Third Round Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing Frequencies, revised March 13, 2000.

Whole effluent toxicity testing of the effluent is thereby required as a condition of this permit to assess potential toxicity. The whole effluent toxicity testing procedures stipulated as a condition of this permit are as follows:

TOXICITY TESTS	FREQUENCY
Chronic WET	once/quarter

Requirements for measurement frequency are based on the CPP.

Since 7Q10 is greater than 100 cfs (ft³/sec), and the dilution ratio (DR) is less than 100:1, chronic WET testing requirements will be included in the permit.

The calculations for dilution used for chronic WET testing are as follows:

$$\text{Critical dilution (CD)} = (Q_d / (Q_d + Q_b)) \times 100$$

$$Q_d = \text{Design flow} = 36 \text{ MGD} = 55.7 \text{ cfs}$$

$$7Q_{10} = 819 \text{ cfs}$$

$$Q_b = \text{Background flow} = 0.25 \times 7Q_{10} = 205 \text{ cfs}$$

$$CD = (55.7) / (55.7 + 205) \times 100 = 21\%$$

$$DR = (7Q_{10} + Q_d) / Q_d = (819 + 55.7) / (55.7) = 15.7 < 100$$

Toxicity tests shall be performed in accordance with protocols described in "Short-term Methods for Estimating the Chronic Toxicity of Effluents and Receiving Waters to Freshwater Organisms," EPA/600/4-91/002, July 1994. A minimum of five effluent dilutions in addition

to an appropriate control (0%) are to be used in the toxicity tests. These additional effluent concentrations are **8%, 12%, 16%, 21%, and 28%** (See the CPP). The low-flow effluent concentration (critical dilution) is defined as **21%** effluent. The requirement for chronic WET tests is based on the magnitude of the facility's discharge with respect to receiving stream flow. The stipulated test species, *Ceriodaphnia dubia* and the Fathead minnow (*Pimephales promelas*) are representative of organisms indigenous to the geographic area of the facility; the use of these is consistent with the requirements of the State water quality standards. The WET testing frequency has been established to provide data representative of the toxic potential of the facility's discharge, in accordance with the regulations promulgated at 40 C.F.R. §122.48.

Results of all dilutions as well as the associated chemical monitoring of pH, temperature, hardness, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, and alkalinity shall be reported according to EPA-821-R-02-013, October 2002, and shall be submitted as an attachment to the Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR).

This permit may be reopened to require further WET testing studies, Toxicity Reduction Evaluation (TRE) and/or effluent limits if WET testing data submitted to the Division shows toxicity in the permittee's discharge. Modification or revocation of this permit is subject to the provisions of 40 C.F.R. § 122.62, as adopted by reference in APC&EC Rule 6. Increased or intensified toxicity testing may also be required in accordance with Section 308 of the Clean Water Act and Section 8-4-201 of the Arkansas Water and Air Pollution Control Act (Act 472 of 1949, as amended).

Administrative Records

The following information summarizes toxicity tests submitted by the permittee during the term of the current permit at Outfall 001.

Permit Number:	AR0021806	AFIN:	60-00409	Outfall Number:	001
Date of Review:	8/29/2022	Reviewer:	T.Cochran		
Facility Name:	Little Rock Water Reclamation Authority - Adams Field Water Reclamation Facility				
Previous Dilution series:	8, 12, 16, 21, 28	Proposed Dilution Series:	8, 12, 16, 21, 28		
Previous Critical Dilution:	21	Proposed Critical Dilution:	21		
Previous TRE activities:					
Frequency recommendation by species					
<i>Pimephales promelas</i> (Fathead minnow):	once per quarter				
<i>Ceriodaphnia dubia</i> (water flea):	once per quarter				
TEST DATA SUMMARY					
TEST DATE	Vertebrate		Invertebrate		
	Lethal NOEC	Sub-Lethal NOEC	Lethal NOEC	Sub-Lethal NOEC	
6/30/2022	28	28	28	28	28
12/31/2021	28	28	28	28	28
6/30/2021	28	28	28	28	28
12/31/2020	28	28	28	28	28
6/30/2020	28	28	28	28	28
12/31/2019	28	28	28	28	28
6/30/2019	28	28	28	28	28
12/31/2018	28	28	28	28	28
9/30/2018	28	28	28	28	28
6/30/2018	28	28	28	28	28
3/31/2018	28	28	28	28	28
12/31/2017	28	28	28	28	28
9/30/2017	28	28	28	28	28
6/30/2017	25	25	25	25	25
Failures noted in BOLD					
REASONABLE POTENTIAL CALCULATIONS					
	Vertebrate Lethal	Vertebrate Sub-lethal	Invertebrate Lethal	Invertebrate Sub-Lethal	
Min NOEC Observed	25	25	25	25	
TU at Min Observed	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	
Count	14	14	14	14	
Failure Count					
Mean	3.602	3.602	3.602	3.602	
Std. Dev.	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	
CV	0	0	0	0	
RPMF	0	0	0	0	
Reasonable Potential	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	
100/Critical dilution	4.762	4.762	4.762	4.762	
Does Reasonable Potential Exist	No	No	No	No	
PERMIT ACTION					
<i>P. promelas</i> lethal - Monitoring <i>P. promelas</i> sub-lethal - Monitoring <i>C. dubia</i> lethal - Monitoring <i>C. dubia</i> sub-lethal - Monitoring					
Additional requirements (including WET Limits) rationale/comments concerning permitting:					

14. STORMWATER REQUIREMENTS

The federal regulations at 40 C.F.R. § 122.26(b)(14)(ix) require major municipal dischargers to have NPDES permit coverage for stormwater discharges from the facility. These requirements include the development and implementation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to control the quality of stormwater discharges from the facility. In lieu of the development of a SWPPP, the facility may obtain a “No Exposure” Exclusion in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 122.26(g) if several conditions can be certified. This facility was issued a “No Exposure” Exclusion under NPDES Tracking number ARR00A001.

15. SAMPLE TYPE AND FREQUENCY

Regulations require permits to establish monitoring requirements to yield data representative of the monitored activity [40 C.F.R. § 122.48(b)] and to ensure compliance with permit limitations [40 C.F.R. § 122.44(i)(1)].

The recommended frequencies for self-monitoring of discharges with flows greater than 10 MGD is once/day based on OWQ guidance memorandum “Recommended Monitoring Frequencies and Sample Types for NPDES Permits,” April 14, 2022 (applicable to CBOD₅, BOD₅, TSS, NH₃-N, pH, PAA, and FCB only). The permit effective January 1, 2007 required monitoring frequencies of once/day for the applicable parameters. As part of a permit modification that became effective on May 1, 2010, the monitoring frequencies of BOD₅ and TSS were reduced from once/day to three/week, and the monitoring frequencies for FCB and pH were reduced from once/day to two/week. When seasonal CBOD₅ and NH₃ limits were added in the renewal permit effective on January 1, 2018, the monitoring frequencies for these parameters were based on the previously reduced BOD₅ monitoring frequency. When PAA limits were added in the permit modification effective January 1, 2020, the monitoring frequency was based on the previously reduced frequency for FCB. A summary of monitoring frequency history for the parameters included in the memo is shown below:

Parameter	Permit Effective Date			
	January 1, 2007	May 1, 2010	January 1, 2018	January 1, 2020
CBOD ₅	N/A	N/A	3/wk	3/wk
BOD ₅	1/day	3/wk	3/wk	3/wk
TSS	1/day	3/wk	3/wk	3/wk
NH ₃ -N	N/A	N/A	3/wk	3/wk
FCB	1/day	2/wk	2/wk	2/wk
PAA	N/A	N/A	N/A	2/wk
pH	1/day	2/wk	2/wk	2/wk

The facility’s effluent data was evaluated for continued eligibility for monitoring frequency reduction. The baseline monitoring frequency of once/day was used as the starting frequency to determine reduced frequencies where allowable in accordance with the OWQ guidance memorandum “OWQ Monitoring Frequency Reduction Guidelines,” April 13, 2022, which incorporates the USEPA Memo “Interim Guidance for Performance – Based Reductions of NPDES Permit Monitoring Frequencies” by reference. The past 2 years of DMR data (February 2021 through January 2023) was reviewed.

A. Facility Enforcement History

This facility has not been subject to any new criminal actions, civil judicial actions, or formal enforcement actions within the period of review. The facility is currently in compliance with consent administrative order LIS 06-037 that became effective in 2006 (and was amended in 2015).

B. Parameter-by-Parameter Compliance

During the periods of review, this facility reported no limit exceedances of the parameters

being evaluated.

C. Parameter-by-Parameter Performance History

The long term average (arithmetic mean of the reported monthly averages from the period of review) and maximum reported value was compared to the permit limits for the following parameters:

Parameter	Long Term Average (LTA)	Monthly Avg. Permit Limit	LTA/Limit	Maximum	Daily Max. Permit Limit
CBOD ₅ /BOD ₅ *	1.4/4.8 mg/l	25/30 mg/l	12%	2.9/15 mg/l	40/45 mg/l
TSS	4.3 mg/l	30 mg/l	14%	42.8 mg/l	45 mg/l
NH ₃ -N	3.6 mg/l	11.9 mg/l	30%	10.9 mg/l	29.7 mg/l
FCB**	8.2	200/1000	2.1%	61	400/2000

* For purposes of performance evaluation, the ratios of the monthly average concentration to the permit limit for CBOD₅ and BOD₅ were averaged to determine the LTA/Limit.

** FCB limits vary by season. For purposes of performance evaluation, the ratios of the monthly average concentration to the permit limit for the applicable season were averaged to determine the LTA/Limit. FCB limits are in units of MPN or colonies per 100 ml.

CBOD₅, BOD₅, TSS, and FCB

As shown in the table above, the LTA/Limit ratio was 11% for CBOD₅ and BOD₅, 14% for TSS, and 2.1% for FCB. The aforementioned memo allows a reduction from once/day to once/week for parameters with a ratio of LTA to monthly average limit less than 25%. Therefore, the CBOD₅, BOD₅, TSS, and FCB monitoring frequencies are being reduced to once/week.

NH₃-N

As shown in the table above, the LTA/Limit ratio was 30% for NH₃-N. The aforementioned memo allows a reduction from once/day to three/week for parameters with a ratio of LTA to monthly average limit from 25% to 49%. Therefore, the previously reduced NH₃-N monitoring frequency of three/week is being continued from the previous permit.

PAA

PAA is limited by the instantaneous maximum. Therefore, a comparison of the LTA to a monthly average limit is not feasible. Considering that the permittee has not reported any exceedances of PAA during the period of review, the monitoring frequency of two/week is being continued from the previous permit.

pH

The "OWQ Monitoring Frequency Reduction Guidelines" memo states that pH monitoring frequency reduction will be on a case-by-case basis. Considering that the permittee has not reported any exceedances of pH during the period of review, the monitoring frequency of

twice/week is being continued from the previous permit.

D. Residency Criteria for Continued Participation

The permittee is expected to maintain the performance levels that were used as the basis for granting monitoring frequency reductions. To remain eligible for these reductions, the permittee may not have any significant noncompliance violations for effluent limitations of the parameters for which reductions have been granted or failure to submit DMRs, or may not be subject to a new formal enforcement action. If the facility does not maintain performance levels, the permit may be reopened to require more frequent monitoring as detailed in Part II.2 of the permit.

The sample frequency for TP and NO₃+NO₂-N has been revised to once/year considering the amount of data already collected during previous permit cycles. The sample type for these parameters was revised from grab to composite to better account for any variance over the course of the day and to be consistent with other parameters that allow for composite sampling.

Parameter	Previous Permit		Final Permit	
	Frequency of Sample	Sample Type	Frequency of Sample	Sample Type
Flow	once/day	totalizing meter	once/day	totalizing meter
CBOD ₅ (May-Oct only)	three/week	composite	once/week	composite
BOD ₅ (Nov-Apr only)	three/week	composite	once/week	composite
TSS	three/week	composite	once/week	composite
NH ₃ -N (May-Oct only)	three/week	composite	three/week	composite
FCB	two/week	grab	once/week	grab
PAA	two/week	grab	two/week	grab
TP	once/month	grab	once/year	composite
NO ₃ + NO ₂ - N	once/quarter	grab	once/year	composite
pH	two/week	grab	two/week	grab
Chronic WET Testing	once/quarter	composite	once/quarter	composite

16. PERMIT COMPLIANCE SCHEDULE

A 60-day Schedule of Compliance has been included in this permit for either certification of the existing technically based local limits (TBLLs) or notification that a technical evaluation revising the current TBLLs will be submitted within 12 months of the effective date of the permit. See Part I.B of the permit.

17. MONITORING AND REPORTING

The applicant is at all times required to monitor the discharge on a regular basis and report the results monthly. The monitoring results will be available to the public.

18. SOURCES

The following sources were used to draft the permit:

- A. Application No. AR0021806 received June 13, 2022, with all additional information received by June 14, 2022.
- B. Arkansas Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP).
- C. APC&EC Rule 2.
- D. APC&EC Rule 3.
- E. APC&EC Rule 6, which incorporates by reference certain federal regulations included in Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations at Rule 6.104.
- F. 40 C.F.R. Parts 122, 125, 133, and 403.
- G. Discharge permit file AR0021806.
- H. Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs).
- I. “2018 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report,” DEQ.
- J. “2018 List of Impaired Waterbodies (303(d) List),” DEQ, May 2020.
- K. “Low-Flow Characteristics and Regionalization of Low-Flow Characteristics for Selected Streams in Arkansas,” U.S. Dept. of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey, Scientific Investigations Report 2008-5065.
- L. Continuing Planning Process (CPP).
- M. “OWQ Guidelines for Decimal Places and Rounding Conventions in NPDES Permits” documented in a June 12, 2020 Interoffice Memorandum.
- N. Technical Support Document for Water Quality-based Toxic Control.
- O. CAO LIS [06-037](#) and [06-037-002](#)
- P. [Letter regarding Other Specified Monitoring Requirements dated January 25, 2019.](#)
- Q. [Notification of UV System Change received June 17, 2021.](#)
- R. [Inspection Report dated September 15, 2020.](#)
- S. [PPS Spreadsheet dated September 2, 2022.](#)
- T. [Compliance Review Memo dated August 26, 2022.](#)
- U. [Planning Review Memo dated September 6, 2022.](#)
- V. [Operator License Class Spreadsheet dated August 26, 2022.](#)
- W. [Site Visit Report dated October 27, 2022.](#)
- X. [Water Quality Model dated July 15, 2016 \(and reviewed September 15, 2022\).](#)
- Y. [Comment letter from Jordan Wimpy received January 23, 2024.](#)

19. PUBLIC NOTICE

The public notice of the draft permit was published for public comment on December 24, 2023. The last day of the comment period was thirty (30) days after the publication date.

A summary of the comments received by the DEQ during the public comment period and response to the comments are included with this permit decision. The response to comments also includes a discussion of any substantial changes from the draft permit.

Copies of the draft permit and public notice were sent via email to the Corps of Engineers, the Regional Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism, the EPA, and the Arkansas Department of Health.

20. PERMIT FEE

In accordance with Rule 9.403(B), the annual fee for the permit is calculated from the Design Flow (Q, in MGD) as follows:

Fee = \$5,000 + (900 × (Q-1)) = \$5,000 + (900 × (36-1)) = \$36,500. The calculated fee would exceed the maximum annual fee of \$30,000 established by Rule 9.401(B)(1), so the annual fee for this permit is \$30,000.

This facility is billed under Fee Code M.

21. POINT OF CONTACT

For additional information, contact:

Zachary Carroll, PhD, P.E.
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**RESPONSE TO COMMENTS
FINAL PERMITTING DECISION**

Permit No.: AR0021806

Applicant: Little Rock Water Reclamation Authority
Adams Field Water Reclamation Facility

Prepared by: Zachary Carroll, PhD, P.E.

The following are responses to comments received by the Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) regarding the draft permit number referenced above and are developed in accordance with regulations promulgated at 40 C.F.R. §124.17, Arkansas Pollution Control & Ecology Commission (APC&EC) Rule 8 (Administrative Procedures), and Arkansas Code Annotated (A.C.A.) §8-4-203(e)(2).

Introduction

The above permit was submitted for public comment on December 24, 2023. The public comment period ended on January 23, 2023.

This document contains a summary of the comments that the DEQ received during the public comment period. A summary of the changes to the NPDES Permit can be found on the last page of this document.

One comment was raised by Jordan Wimpy (Mitchell, Williams, Selig, Gates & Woodyard, P.L.L.C.) on behalf of Little Rock Water Reclamation Authority (LRWRA).

Comment:

Please accept the following comment, which is submitted on behalf of Little Rock Water Reclamation Authority (LRWRA). LRWRA has reviewed the draft renewal of NPDES Permit No. AR0021806 for LRWRA's Adams Field Water Reclamation Facility, which was published for public notice in the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette on December 24, 2023. LRWRA appreciates Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment - Division of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) diligent review of the renewal application materials and the thoughtful preparation of the draft renewal permit. LRWRA proposes the following changes to the SSO reporting requirements, along with supporting comments.

Proposed Revisions to Part II.5 of the Draft Permit:

5. *Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) Reporting Requirements:*

All Sanitary Sewer Overflows are prohibited Discharges of wastewater from Sanitary Sewer Overflows are not authorized by this permit.

A. *A sanitary sewer overflow is any spill, release or diversion of wastewater from a sanitary sewer collection system including:*

1. Any overflow, whether it discharges to the waters of the state or not.
2. An overflow of wastewater, including a wastewater backup into a building (other than a backup caused solely by a blockage or other malfunction in a privately owned sewer or building lateral), even if that overflow does not reach waters of the state.

B. 24-Hour Reporting:

~~*When An SSO that endangers human health or the environment is detected—no matter how small—it must be reported within 24 hours of its discovery to DEQ’s Water Quality Enforcement by using the online form in paragraph C below (the preferred method), by phone at (501) 682-0638, or by email at ssoadeq@adeq.state.ar.us.*~~

This initial 24-hour report should include the following information:

1. Permit Number
2. Location of overflow (manhole number or street address)
3. The receiving water (if applicable)
4. Cause of overflow (if known)
5. Estimated volume of overflow so far
6. Total duration of the overflow

Comment Supporting Proposed Revisions to Part 11.5:

LRWRA believes the proposed revisions to the draft renewal permit are appropriate for at least the following reasons:

1. LRWRA's proposed revisions state clearly the permit does not authorize SSOs, while stopping short of declaring all SSOs prohibited and illegal. Additionally, the proposed revisions clarify that 24-hour reporting is reserved for those SSO events that endanger human health and the environment. For both proposed revisions, the language is consistent with major municipal NPDES permits issued or published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2023.

EPA Region 6 issued major municipal NPDES permits for multiple New Mexico municipalities, including NPDES Permit No. NM0029629 (Issued by EPA Region 6 on November 16, 2023) and NPDES Permit No. NM0029351 (Issued by EPA Region 6 on January 12, 2023). Neither permit included a prohibition on all SSOs. Moreover, Region 6 permit provisions for overflow reporting required 24-hour reporting only for overflows that endanger health or the environment. Specifically, the reporting obligation reads as follows:

Overflow/bypass that endanger health or the environment shall be reported via email to R6_NPDES_Reporting@epa.gov, the Pueblo of Santa Clara at (505) 753-7326, the Pueblo of San Ildefonso at (505) 455-4119 and the NMED Surface Water Quality Bureau at (505) 827- 0187 as soon as possible, but within 24 hours from the time the permittee becomes aware of the circumstance. A written report of overflows that endanger health or the environment shall be provided to EPA, the Pueblo of Santa Clara, the Pueblo of San Ildefonso and the NMED Surface Water Quality Bureau within 5 days of the time the

permittee becomes aware of the circumstance. *See* NPDES Permit No. NM0029629, Part I.D (emphasis added).

In EPA Region 1, the federal agency issued final or published draft major municipal NPDES permits for multiple municipalities in Massachusetts that included language similar to the proposed replacement language offered here by LRWRA. Specifically, NPDES Permit No. MA0101800 (Issued by EPA Region 1 on September 28, 2023) and DRAFT NPDES Permit No. MA0100676 (Published by EPA Region 1 on December 22, 2023) include the following language concerning unauthorized discharges, like SSOs:

This permit authorizes discharges only from the outfall listed in Part I.A.1, in accordance with the terms and conditions of this permit. **Discharges of wastewater from any other point sources, including sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs), are not authorized by this permit.** *See* NPDES Permit No. MA0101800, Part 1.B.1 (emphasis added).

2. LRWRA's proposal to remove (and replace) permit language stating "All Sanitary Sewer Overflows are prohibited" is also more consistent with major municipal NPDES permits issued by DEQ in 2023. None of the following municipal permits include SSO reporting requirement language declaring all SSOs are prohibited. *See, e.g.,* Part II.5 of the following permits:

NPDES Permit No. AR0033936 (Issued by DEQ on November 12, 2023);

NPDES Permit No. AR0038288 (Issued by DEQ on July 24, 2023);

NPDES Permit No. AR0021768 (Issued by DEQ on July 24, 2023);

NPDES Permit No. AR0051951 (Issued by DEQ on June 23, 2023); and

NPDES Permit No. AR0033278 (Issued by DEQ on April 25, 2023).

3. The EPA Permit Writer's Manual (the Manual)¹ does not include any special conditions for SSO reporting that declare an outright prohibition on SSOs. Instead, the Manual outlines those SSO conditions appropriate for immediate reporting, written reports, third-party notice, recordkeeping, and CMOM programs and requirements. The Manual also makes clear that not all SSOs require an immediate report; rather, the Manual states that permits should clarify that the permittee is required to notify the NPDES authority of "an overflow **that could endanger health or the environment** as soon as practicable but within 24 hours of the time the permittee becomes aware of the overflow." *See* Manual § 9.2.4 (emphasis added). In short, the changes proposed by LRWRA are fully consistent with EPA's Manual.
4. Finally, LRWRA believes the prohibition stated in the SSO reporting requirements is too broad. SSOs are typically described to include "releases of sewage that result in a discharge to waters of the United States, as well as releases that do not result in a discharge to U.S. waters, including sewage backups into buildings." 75 *Fed. Reg.* 30,395, 30,397 (June 1, 2010).

But, as noted by EPA in its 2010 request for input on the possible development of rules for SSOs, only "SSOs that reach waters of the United States are point source discharges and, like other point source discharges, **are generally prohibited unless authorized by an NPDES**

¹ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Wastewater Management, Water Permits Division State and Regional Branch, EPA-833-K-10-001, *NPDES Permit Writers' Manual* (Sept. 2010).

permit." *Id.* at 30,398 (emphasis added). Additionally, EPA stated that "SSOs, including those that do not reach waters of the United States, **may be** indicative of improper operation and maintenance of the sewer system, and thus **may violate** other NPDES permit conditions." *Id.* (emphasis added). The language on SSOs now used by EPA remains consistent with these important legal distinctions.² And LRWRA's proposed alternative language remains faithful to those important distinctions.

LRWRA appreciates the opportunity to both comment on the draft permit and propose these limited revisions, and the utility thanks DEQ in advance for its consideration of the same.

Response:

The Division acknowledges this comment and has revised Part II.5 as follows:

5. *Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) Reporting Requirements:*

~~All Sanitary Sewer Overflows are prohibited~~ Sanitary Sewer Overflows are not authorized by this permit.

Detailed responses are provided below:

1. Regarding the prohibition of Sanitary Sewer Overflows

Part II.5 has been revised to state that "Sanitary Sewer Overflows are not authorized by this permit."

The EPA has authorized the State of Arkansas to issue NPDES permits, which is done through the Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment – Division of Environmental Quality. LRWRA's discharge of pollutants from Outfall 001 into the Arkansas River is authorized and governed by DEQ-issued NPDES Permit No. AR0021806. The NPDES Permit authorizes LRWRA to discharge treated municipal wastewater from Outfall 001 in accordance with the effluent limitations, monitoring requirements, and other conditions. LRWRA is not permitted to discharge pollutants from its collection system. Discharges from its collection system, i.e. SSOs, are a violation of NPDES Permit No. AR0021806. A discharge from an SSO may be established as an upset if the requirements in Part III.B.5 of the permit are met.

2. Regarding 24-hour reporting:

No changes were made to Part II.5.B requirements for 24-hour reporting of all SSOs. The Division acknowledges that the minimum federal requirement for 24-hour reporting is limited to noncompliance which may endanger health or the environment. Collection systems are

² U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs), *available at* <https://www.epa.gov/npdes/sanitary-sewer-overflows-ssos> (last updated May 31, 2023).

typically located in urban areas; if an SSO occurs, there is often potential for contact with the general public. The 24-hour reporting requirement for SSOs ensures that the State and general public will be made aware of all SSOs and state agencies will be able to investigate and/or respond in a timely manner, if necessary. Considering the broad availability of cellular phone and internet service, the requirement for reporting of SSOs within 24 hours of discovery is not expected to cause an undue burden. The initial 24-hour report only requires reporting of the information known about the SSO at the time the report is made; 5 days is allowed for a more complete report, if needed.

3. Regarding SSO language in permits from other states

The Division acknowledges that other states may use different SSO language in NPDES permits.

4. Regarding SSO language in other permits in Arkansas.

The Division acknowledges that recently issued NPDES permits have used different SSO permit conditions than was proposed in the draft permit. The Division is currently revising the SSO condition included in POTW permits and certain other permits with a collection system, and is implementing the revised SSO condition in permits currently being drafted.

5. The phone number for 24-hour reporting was corrected to the current reporting number.