



ARKANSAS

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

March 4, 2021

Environmental Program Manager, Water Resources Development Division
Arkansas Natural Resources Commission
10461 W. Markham
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205

RE: Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) Regarding Project No. WRD-004-185, Cave Springs Proposed Wastewater Treatment and Disposal System Improvements

The Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is pleased to comment on the proposed project to construct improvements to the wastewater treatment and disposal system in the City of Cave Springs. Funding for the project will be provided by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Division. Based on the information provided in the FONSI, dated February 21, 2021, it is DEQ's understanding that the project will include the construction of a combination of gravity and sewer main from Cave Springs' existing facilities site to a 36-inch gravity sewer line in southwest Bentonville. The existing 36-inch sewer line connects to Northwest Arkansas Conservation Authority's (NACA) existing wastewater treatment facility. The improvements will also include a construction of a pump station and the abandonment of the Cave Springs Wastewater Treatment Plant. In this proposal, the City of Cave Springs will decommission its existing wastewater treatment facility after the project is complete.

Areas of Concern

From an environmental compliance standpoint, there are areas of concern. The proposed project area is located in karst geology. It is imperative that best available measures be taken to minimize sedimentation and turbidity from entering waterbodies throughout this project.

Any hydrostatic testing occurring during the proposed project will require obtaining coverage under the Non-Stormwater Hydrostatic Testing General Permit ARG670000. All applicable State and Federal laws must be met before, during, and after completion of the project.

All construction projects are subject to Construction Stormwater regulations if they disturb one acre of land or more. The Construction Stormwater General Permit ARR150000 must be active before any work can begin. Information on these regulations can be found on DEQ's website, www.adeq.state.ar.us/water/permits/npdes/stormwater/, or by contacting OWQ's Stormwater Section at 501.682.0620.

Further, the Stormwater Construction General permit does not authorize any activity to be conducted in Waters of the State or Waters of the United States. Work in the Waters of the State require a short-term activity authorization (STAA) from DEQ prior to working in the wetted area of a stream or water body, and may require a U.S. Corps of Engineers permit. A STAA is necessary for any in-stream activity that may cause an exceedance of applicable water quality standards, including, but not limited to: gravel removal, bridge or crossing repair/maintenance, bank stabilization, debris removal, culvert replacement, flood control projects, and stream relocation. For more information and forms see DEQ's website, <https://www.adeg.state.ar.us/water/planning/instream/>, or call 501.682.0040.

The decommissioning of the wastewater treatment plant will require submittal of a closure plan and notice of termination to DEQ.

This letter is issued in reliance upon the statements and representations made in the submittal. DEQ has no responsibility for adequacy or proper functioning of the proposed project. Please contact the Office of Water Quality with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Blanz', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert E. Blanz, Ph.D., P.E.
Associate Director, Office of Water Quality
Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment
Division of Environmental Quality
5301 Northshore Drive, North Little Rock, AR 72118

BB:crm

cc: Michelle Gilham, Program Coordinator, Enterprise Service GILLHAM@adeq.state.ar.us
file 4893-WR-3