

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

IN THE MATTER OF:

City of Gravette
604 1st Ave SE
Gravette, AR 72736

LIS No. 24- 034
Permit Number: AR0023833
AFIN 04-00013

CONSENT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

This Consent Administrative Order ("Order") is issued pursuant to the authority of the Arkansas Water and Air Pollution Control Act, Ark. Code Ann. § 8-4-101 *et seq.*, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1311 *et seq.*, and the rules issued thereunder by the Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission (APC&EC).

The issues herein having been settled by the agreement of the City of Gravette (Respondent) and the Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ), it is hereby agreed and stipulated that the following FINDINGS OF FACT and ORDER AND AGREEMENT be entered.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent operates a wastewater treatment facility ("Facility") located at 1009 Plant Access Road, Gravette, Benton County, Arkansas.
2. Respondent discharges treated wastewater to Railroad Hollow Creek, thence to Spavinaw Creek in Segment 3J of the Arkansas River Basin.
3. Respondent is regulated pursuant to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).
4. Pursuant to the federal Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a) *et seq.*, the NPDES program prohibits the discharge of pollutants except as in compliance with a permit issued under the NPDES program in accordance with 33 U.S.C. § 1342(a).

5. DEQ is authorized under the Arkansas Water and Air Pollution Control Act ("Act") to issue NPDES permits in the state of Arkansas and to initiate an enforcement action for any violation of a NPDES permit.

6. Ark. Code Ann. § 8-4-217(a)(3) provides:

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to:

...

(3) Violate any provisions of this chapter or of any rule or order adopted by the [APC&EC] under this chapter or of a permit issued under this chapter by the [DEQ].

7. Ark. Code Ann. § 8-4-103(c)(1)(A) authorizes DEQ to assess an administrative civil penalty not to exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per violation for any violation of any provision of the Act and any rule or permit issued pursuant to the Act.

8. Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 8-4-103(c)(1)(B), "[e]ach day of a continuing violation may be deemed a separate violation for purposes of penalty assessment."

9. DEQ issued NPDES Permit Number AR0023833 ("Permit") to Respondent on February 28, 2018. The Permit became effective on April 1, 2018, and expired on March 31, 2023.

10. Part III, Section D, Condition 10 of the Permit requires Respondent to submit a complete permit renewal application at least 180 days prior to the expiration date of the Permit if the activity regulated by the Permit is to continue after the expiration date.

11. Respondent intends to operate this Facility beyond the expiration date of the current permit, March 31, 2023.

12. On April 1, 2022, July 6, 2022, and July 18, 2022, Respondent was notified that the Permit would expire on March 31, 2023, and that in order to continue the regulated activity, a complete renewal application must be submitted no later than October 2, 2022.

13. DEQ received a Permit renewal application from Respondent on October 11, 2022, and on October 12, 2022, DEQ notified Respondent that its application was incomplete. DEQ's October 12, 2022 correspondence detailed the incomplete and missing information from the application submitted on October 11, 2022.

14. Respondent submitted a complete Permit renewal application to DEQ on November 4, 2022.

15. The complete Permit renewal application was not received by October 2, 2022. Failure to submit the complete Permit renewal application by October 2, 2022, is a violation of Part III, Section D, Condition 10 of the Permit and therefore is a violation of Ark. Code Ann. § 8-4-217(a)(3).

ORDER AND AGREEMENT

WHEREFORE, the parties stipulate and agree as follows:

1. Respondent shall comply with the existing Permit until either the effective date of the permit renewal or the effective date of the permit termination.

2. In compromise and full settlement of the violations specified in the Findings of Fact, Respondent agrees to pay a civil penalty of One Thousand Dollars (\$1000.00), or one-half of the full civil penalty of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) if this Order is signed and returned to the Office of Water Quality Enforcement Branch, DEQ, 5301 Northshore Drive, North Little Rock, Arkansas, 72118-5317, within twenty (20) calendar days of receipt of this Order. Payment is due within thirty (30) calendar days of the effective date of this Order. Payment of the penalty shall be made payable to the Division of Environmental Quality, and mailed to the attention of:

Division of Environmental Quality
Fiscal Division
5301 Northshore Drive
North Little Rock, AR 72118

In the event that Respondent fails to pay the civil penalty within the prescribed time, DEQ shall be entitled to attorneys' fees and costs of collection.

3. Failure to meet any requirement or deadline of this Order constitutes a violation of this Order. If Respondent should fail to meet any such requirements or deadlines, Respondent consents and agrees to pay on demand to DEQ stipulated penalties according to the following schedule:

- a. First day through fourteenth day: \$100.00 per day
- b. Fifteenth day through the thirtieth day: \$500.00 per day
- c. Each day beyond the thirtieth day: \$1000.00 per day

These stipulated penalties for delay in performance shall be in addition to any other remedies or sanctions that may be available to DEQ by reason of failure by Respondent to comply with the requirements of this Order.

4. If any event, including but not limited to an act of nature, occurs that causes or may cause a delay in the achievement of compliance by Respondent with the requirements or deadlines of this Order, Respondent shall so notify DEQ, in writing, as soon as reasonably possible after it is apparent that a delay will result, but in no case after the due dates specified in this Order. The notification shall describe in detail the anticipated length of the delay, the precise cause of the delay, the measures being taken and to be taken to minimize the delay, and the timetable by which those measures will be implemented.

5. DEQ may grant an extension of any provision of this Order, provided that Respondent requests such an extension in writing and provided that the delay or anticipated delay has or will be caused by circumstances beyond the control of and without the fault of Respondent. The time

for performance may be extended for a reasonable period but in no event longer than the period of delay resulting from such circumstances. The burden of proving that any delay is caused by circumstances beyond the control of and without the fault of Respondent and the length of the delay attributable to such circumstances shall rest with Respondent. Failure to notify the DEQ promptly, as provided in the preceding paragraph of this Section, shall be grounds for a denial of an extension.

6. All requirements by the Order and Agreement are subject to approval by DEQ. Unless otherwise specified herein, in the event of any deficiencies, Respondent shall, within the timeframe specified by DEQ, submit any additional information or changes requested, or take additional actions specified by DEQ to correct any such deficiencies. Failure to respond adequately to such Notice of Deficiency within the timeframe specified in writing by DEQ constitutes a failure to meet the requirements established by this Order.

7. This Order is subject to public review and comment in accordance with Ark. Code Ann. § 8-4-103(d) and APC&EC Rule 8 and shall not be effective until thirty (30) calendar days after public notice is given. DEQ retains the right to rescind this Order based upon the comments received within the thirty (30) day public comment period. Notwithstanding the public notice requirements, the corrective actions necessary to achieve compliance shall be taken immediately. The publication of this Order shall occur on or about the 10th or 25th day of the month following the date this Order is executed. As provided by APC&EC Rule 8, this matter is subject to being reopened upon Commission initiative or in the event a petition to set aside this Order is granted by the Commission.

8. Nothing in this Order shall be construed as a waiver by DEQ of its enforcement authority over alleged violations not specifically addressed herein. Also, this Order does not exonerate

Respondent from any past, present, or future conduct that is not expressly addressed herein, nor does it relieve Respondent of its responsibilities for obtaining any necessary permits.

9. This Order has been reviewed and approved by the City Council of Respondent in a duly convened meeting with a quorum present. See copy of [meeting minutes or resolution] attached as Exhibit A.

10. The City Council of Respondent has authorized the Mayor and City Clerk/Treasurer to sign this Order on behalf of Respondent. See Exhibit A.

11. The City Council of Respondent has authorized the Mayor and City Clerk/Treasurer to expend funds for compliance activities required by this Order including but not limited to the payment of a civil penalty as set forth in this Order. See Exhibit A.

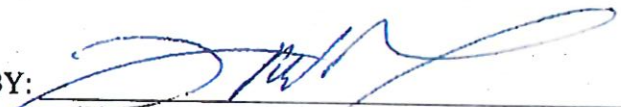
SO ORDERED THIS ^{21st 90} ~~13th~~ DAY OF February, 2024.



CALEB J. OSBORNE, DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, DIRECTOR
CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR, ENVIRONMENT

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CONTENT:

City of Gravette

BY: 
(Signature)

Kurt Maddux
(Typed or printed name)

TITLE: Mayor

DATE: 2/14/24

RESOLUTION NO. 02-13-24-A

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF GRAVETTE TO ENTER INTO A CONSENT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER WITH THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT, DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (DEQ)

WHEREAS, it is in the City's best interest to enter into an agreement with DEQ and resolve the violations of the Arkansas Water and Air Pollution Control Act listed in the proposed Consent Administrative Order.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Public Works Director or other designated person, working with a Professional Engineer, have developed a plan of action to address the issues listed in the proposed Consent Administrative Order.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAVETTE, ARKANSAS:

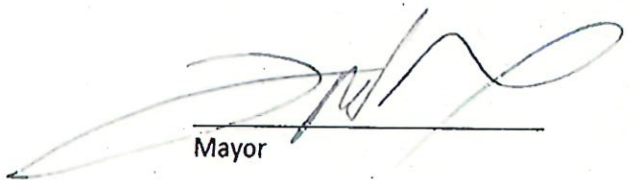
SECTION I. The proposed Consent Administrative Order has been reviewed and approved by the City Council in a duly convened meeting with a quorum present.

SECTION II. The City Council of the City of Gravette authorizes the Mayor to sign the proposed Consent Administrative Order.

SECTION III. The City Council of the City of Gravette authorizes the Mayor and treasurer to expend funds for compliance activities required by the proposed Consent Administrative Order including but not limited to the payment of a civil penalty as set forth in the proposed Consent Administrative Order.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 13th DAY OF February, 2024.

APPROVED:



Mayor

ATTEST:


City Clerk

STATE OF ARKANSAS
CITY OF GRAVETTE
CERTIFICATE OF RECORDER
I, David Henzie, Recorder of the City of Gravette, Benton County, Arkansas in and for the City of the State aforesaid, do hereby certify that this Instrument of writing is a true and complete copy, and the same appears of record of CAO authorization resting on file in my said office. I have here unto set my hand this 14 day of 2, 2024
David Henzie, Recorder
City of Gravette, Benton County, AR
By 