

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

IN THE MATTER OF:

Newton County
P.O. Box 435
Jasper, AR 72641

LIS No. 20- **114**
Permit Tracking No. ARR000816 (EXPIRED)
AFIN 51-00049

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 regulations and rules issued thereunder by Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission (APC&EC).

The issues herein having been settled by the agreement of Newton County (Respondent) and the Division of Environmental Quality¹ (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 recycling center and transfer station (“Facility”) located on Highway 7 South, Jasper, Newton County, Arkansas.
2. Respondent is regulated pursuant to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).

¹ Pursuant to Act 910 of 2019, the Arkansas Transformation and Efficiencies Act, the former Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality is now the Division of Environmental Quality in the newly created Department of Energy and Environment.

3. 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).

4. 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 an NPDES permit.

5. 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].

6. 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.

7. 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.”

8. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 122.26(c), as adopted by APC&EC Regulation No. 6, dischargers of stormwater associated with industrial activity, as defined by 40 C.F.R. § 122.26(b)(14)(i-ix, xi), are required to obtain coverage under the NPDES Industrial Stormwater General Permit ARR000000 or an individual permit.

9. DEQ issued the NPDES Industrial Stormwater General Permit with an effective date of July 1, 2014, and an expiration date of June 30, 2019. DEQ issued a renewal of the NPDES

Industrial Stormwater General Permit with an effective date of July 1, 2019, and an expiration date of June 30, 2024.

10. DEQ issued Industrial Stormwater General Permit coverage to Respondent for discharge of stormwater into waters of the state pursuant to the NPDES Industrial Stormwater General Permit, Permit Tracking Number ARR000816 (“Permit”) with a coverage date of July 1, 2014, and an expiration date of June 30, 2019.

11. Part 2 Condition 2.2 of the Permit requires Respondent to submit a complete Recertification Notice of Intent (RNOI) no later than June 30, 2019, in order to maintain permit coverage for the regulated activity.

12. On December 31, 2018, Respondent was notified via letter that the Permit would expire on June 30, 2019, and that in order to continue the regulated activity, a complete RNOI must be submitted no later than June 30, 2019.

13. The complete RNOI was not received by July 1, 2019. Failure to submit the RNOI by July 1, 2019, is a violation Part 2 Condition 2.2 of the Permit and therefore a violation of Ark. Code Ann. § 8-4-217(a)(3).

14. On September 20, 2019, DEQ notified Respondent that coverage under the Permit had expired.

15. On September 24, 2019, DEQ contacted Respondent, and Respondent confirmed the Facility is still operating. Respondent has operated the Facility beyond the June 30, 2019 expiration date of the NPDES Industrial Stormwater General Permit. This action is a violation of 40 C.F.R. § 122.26, as adopted by APC&EC Regulation No. 6, and is therefore a violation of Ark. Code Ann. § 8-4-217(a)(3).

16. On October 8, 2019, Respondent submitted a No Exposure Certification Form for Exclusion from NPDES Stormwater Permitting.

ORDER AND AGREEMENT

WHEREFORE, the parties stipulate and agree as follows:

1. Respondent shall comply with the NPDES Industrial Stormwater General Permit, ARR000000 with the effective date of July 1, 2019, until DEQ issues a Notice of Coverage to Respondent.

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. Such payment of the penalty shall be made payable to the Division of Environmental Quality, and mailed to the attention of:

DEQ, 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 which 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 Regulation No. 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 Regulation No. 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 which 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 Quorum Court of Respondent in a duly convened meeting with a quorum present. See copy of [meeting minutes or resolution] attached as Exhibit A.

10. The Quorum Court of Respondent has authorized the County Judge to sign this Order on behalf of Respondent. See Exhibit A.

11. The Quorum Court of Respondent has authorized the County Judge 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 10th DAY OF February, 2020.

Becky W. Keogh
BECKY W. KEOGH, DIRECTOR

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CONTENT:

Newton County

BY: Warren Campbell
(Signature)

Warren Campbell
(Typed or printed name)

TITLE: County Judge

DATE: 1-27-2020

QUORUM COURT MINUTES

JANUARY 6TH, 2020

Be it remembered that on January 6th, 2020 Newton County Quorum Court met in regular session. Judge Campbell called the meeting to order, Clerk Davis gave the roll call with all JP's present. Jerry Lee gave the Invocation motion by Jerry Lee, 2nd by Terry Clark to approve minutes. Voice vote all yeas. Hearing from the public, Arlis Jones made the motion to un-table Pruitt Bridge issue. 2nd by Dennis Sain voice vote yeas carry. Guy Shaddox Jr. spoke and read a petition that was being circulated pertaining to Pruitt Bridge. Mr. Shaddox expressed his opinion as a lifelong resident passionate concerning Pruitt Bridge. Shaddox said bridge needs kept regardless where at in Newton County to preserve history. Lois Willard spoke of liability on bridge being the same as any county building or equipment under a blanket coverage. Attorney Brad Brown explained that if the county accepted the Pruitt Bridge that the liability would not be the same because if the public was charged for coming on to the bridge the county would be liable for any substance being thrown or dropped into the river or safety issues. Mr. Shaddox said by taking the vehicle traffic off of bridge it would prolong life of bridge. JP Arlis Jones said he felt as if the bridge was on county roster the torque liability would cover. JP Terry Clark said let anything change and we have a new problem Crouse Construction own the bridge. JP Arlis Jones said he would take everything previously and past to Judge Puttman and let him decide what is legal and what is not. JP John Phillips ased opinion on what legal. Jones said any voter in U.S. can sign petition concerning the bridge. JP Jimmy Martin asked if the court decision made a difference. JP Dennis Sain suggested maybe table issue the court suggested lets vote. A motion was made by Steve Adams to vote yes to accept the bridge vote no to not accept bridge. Jimmy Martin 2nd the motion. Lois Willard spoke and said park service wanting to put bronze plaque of bridge maybe at courthouse. JP Jones asked what structure on park service has not been torn down. JP Jamie Mefford asked if this has been voted on before why are we doing this again. After much discussion Steve Adams withdrew his motion and Jimmy Martin withdrew his 2nd on motion. JP Terry Clark suggested take this all to Judge and get opinion. Motion by Terry Clark 2nd by Steve Adams to table bridge issue. Voice vote yeas carry. In other business, the quorum court of Newton County authorized the county judge to sign an order pertaining to Industrial Stormwater General Permit concerning Newton County Recycle Center and authorizing the cost of all fees. No other business was conducted. Motion by Jerry Lee 2nd by John Phillips to adjourn voice vote all yeas.

Passed on this 3rd day of February, 2020.



County Clerk



County Judge