

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

IN THE MATTER OF:

Southland Improvement District
99 Silagy Drive
Higden, AR 72067

LIS No. 19- 119
Permit No. AR0042404
AFIN 54-00106

CONSENT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

This Consent Administrative Order ("Order") is issued pursuant to the authority of the Arkansas Water and Air Pollution Control Act ("the 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 issued thereunder by Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission (APC&EC).

The issues herein having been settled by the agreement of the Southland Improvement District ("Respondent") and the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ or "Department"), 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 municipal wastewater treatment plant ("Facility") located at 1085 Highway 49 West, West Helena, Phillips County, Arkansas.
2. Respondent discharges treated wastewater to an unnamed tributary to Lick Creek, thence to Lick Creek, thence to Big Creek, thence to the White River in Segment 4A of the White 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. ADEQ is authorized under the Act to issue NPDES permits in the state of Arkansas and to initiate an enforcement action for any violation of an 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, regulation, or order adopted by the [APC&EC] under this chapter or of a permit issued under this chapter by the [ADEQ].

7. Ark. Code Ann. § 8-4-103(c)(1)(A) authorizes ADEQ 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 regulation 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. The Department issued NPDES Permit Number AR0042404 (“Permit”) to Respondent on March 24, 2014. The Permit became effective on May 1, 2014, and expired on April 30, 2019.

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, April 30, 2019.

12. On May 3, 2018 and August 2, 2018, Respondent was notified that the Permit would expire on April 30, 2019, and that in order to continue the regulated activity, a complete renewal application must be submitted no later than November 1, 2018.

13. The Department received an incomplete application for renewal from Respondent on April 2, 2019, and notified Respondent on April 10, 2019, that the application was incomplete.

14. The Department received additional information on May 16, 2019, and notified Respondent on May 28, 2019, the additional information required to complete the application.

15. The complete Permit renewal application was not received by November 1, 2018. Failure to submit the Permit renewal application by November 1, 2018, is a violation of Part III, Section D, Condition 10 of the Permit and therefore a violation of Ark. Code Ann. § 8-4-217(a)(3).

ORDER AND AGREEMENT

WHEREFORE, the parties stipulate and agree as follows:

1. Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this Order, Respondent shall submit to the Department a complete Permit renewal application.

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

3. 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 (\$1,000.00). 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 Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, and mailed to the attention of:

Arkansas Department 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, ADEQ shall be entitled to attorneys' fees and costs of collection.

4. Failure to meet any requirement or deadline of this Order constitutes a violation of said Order. If Respondent should fail to meet any such requirements or deadlines, the Respondent consents and agrees to pay on demand to ADEQ 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 which may be available to ADEQ by reason of failure by Respondent to comply with the requirements of this Order.

5. 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 ADEQ, 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.

6. ADEQ 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 ADEQ promptly, as provided in the preceding paragraph of this Section, shall be grounds for a denial of an extension.

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

8. 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. ADEQ retains the right to rescind this Order based upon the comments received within the thirty-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.

9. Nothing in this Order shall be construed as a waiver by ADEQ 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.

10. The undersigned representative of the Respondent certifies that he or she is a Commissioner of the Respondent and thus authorized to execute this Order and to legally bind the Respondent to its terms and conditions. Execution of this Order by an individual other than a Commissioner of Respondent shall be accompanied by a resolution granting signature authority to said individual as duly ratified by the governing body of the entity.

SO ORDERED THIS 19th DAY OF December, 2019.

Becky W. Keogh

BECKY W. KEOGH, DIRECTOR

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CONTENT:

Southland Improvement District

BY: *Paul Von Kavel*
(Signature)

Paul Von Kavel
(Typed or printed name)

TITLE: President of Board - Southland Improvement DIST

DATE: 7-13-19