

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

IN THE MATTER OF:

Mississippi River State Park
State Parks Division
Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism
One Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR 72201

LIS No. 22- **112**
Permit No. AR0051845
AFIN 39-00516

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

The issues herein having been settled by the agreement of the State Parks Division of the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism (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 state park with a wastewater treatment facility (“facility”) located at 2955 Highway 44, Marianna, Lee County, Arkansas.
2. Respondent discharges treated wastewater to Bear Creek, thence to the St. Francis River, thence to the Mississippi River in Segment 5A of the St. Francis 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 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 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 AR0051845 (“Permit”) to Respondent on June 11, 2021. The Permit became effective on July 1, 2021, and expires on June 30, 2026.

10. On May 16, 2022, DEQ conducted a review of certified Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) submitted by Respondent in accordance with the Permit.

11. The review revealed that Respondent reported the following violations of the permitted effluent discharge limits detailed in Part I, Section A of the Permit from April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2022:

- a. Six (6) violations of Ammonia Nitrogen;
- b. Four (4) violations of Total Suspended Solids;
- c. Four (4) violations of Fecal Coliform Bacteria; and
- d. One (1) violation of Carbonaceous Biochemical Oxygen Demand.

12. Each of the fifteen (15) discharge limitation violations listed in Paragraph 11 above constitutes a separate permit violation for a total of fifteen (15) separate violations of Ark. Code Ann. § 8-4-217(a)(3).

13. The review also revealed that Respondent failed to conduct an analysis for Total Residual Chlorine for the monitoring period ending on 3/31/2022. Failure to monitor the effluent discharge for Total Residual Chlorine is a violation of Part I, Section A 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. Within ninety (90) calendar days of the effective date of this Order, Respondent shall submit to DEQ, for review and approval, a comprehensive Corrective Action Plan (CAP) developed by a Professional Engineer (P.E.) licensed in the state of Arkansas. The CAP shall include, at minimum, the methods and best available technologies that will be used to correct the violations listed in Findings of Fact Paragraph 11 and prevent future violations. The CAP shall include a reasonable milestone schedule with a date of final compliance. Upon review and approval by DEQ, Respondent shall comply with the terms, milestone schedule, and final compliance date contained the approved CAP. The milestone schedule and final compliance date shall be fully enforceable as terms of this Order.
2. On or before the fifteenth (15th) day of the month following the effective date of this Order, and each quarter thereafter for a period lasting until this Order is closed, Respondent shall

submit quarterly progress reports detailing the progress that has been made towards compliance with the final permitted effluent limits set forth in Part I, Section A of the Permit. Within thirty (30) calendar days of the final compliance date listed in the approved CAP, Respondent shall submit a final compliance report stamped by a P.E. licensed in the state of Arkansas certifying that all milestones contained in the approved CAP have been completed and the facility is in compliance with the effluent limitations set forth in Part I, Section A of the Permit.

3. Respondent shall monitor the effluent for each of the parameters set forth in Part I, Section A of the Permit at the frequency set forth therein.

4. In compromise and full settlement of the violations specified in the Findings of Fact, and to the extent permitted by law, Respondent agrees to pay a civil penalty of Five Thousand Six Hundred Dollars (\$5600.000), of which Five Thousand Six Hundred Dollars (\$5600.000) shall be conditionally SUSPENDED by DEQ. The allowance of a conditional suspension is based upon DEQ's primary goal of regulatory compliance and Respondent's efforts to achieve compliance. If Respondent fully complies with this Order, the suspended civil penalty of Five Thousand Six Hundred Dollars (\$5600.000) shall be DISMISSED by DEQ. The suspension and dismissal of civil penalties is contingent upon Respondent complying with the terms of this Order. If Respondent violates any term of this Order, the full balance of Five Thousand Six Hundred Dollars (\$5600.000) shall be payable immediately to DEQ. Payment of the civil 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. DEQ may grant an extension of any provision of this Order if Respondent requests such an extension in writing, and 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. Respondent has the burden of proving that any delay is caused by circumstances beyond the control and without the fault of Respondent, as well as the length of the delay attributable to such circumstances. Failure to notify DEQ promptly, as provided in the

preceding paragraph of this Section, shall be grounds for a denial of an extension.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. Each of the undersigned representatives of the parties certifies that he or she is authorized to execute this Order and to legally bind that party to its terms and conditions.

SO ORDERED THIS 24th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2022.



JULIE LINCK, CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR, ENVIRONMENT

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CONTENT:

State Parks Division
Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism

BY: 

(Signature)

SHEALENIS

(Typed or printed name)

TITLE: DIRECTOR

DATE: 11/4/2022
