

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

IN THE MATTER OF:

Arkansas District Council of the Assemblies of God
Mountain Valley Retreat Center
1366 North Highway 7
Hot Springs, AR 71909

LIS No. 22- 113
Permit Number: AR0046141
AFIN 26-00252

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 Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission (APC&EC).

The issues herein having been settled by the agreement of Arkansas District Council of the Assemblies of God - Mountain Valley Retreat Center (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 domestic wastewater treatment plant ("Facility") located at 1366 North Highway 7, Hot Springs, Garland County, Arkansas.
2. Respondent discharges treated wastewater to an unnamed tributary of the South Fork Saline River, thence into the South Fork Saline River, thence into the Saline River, thence into the Ouachita River in Segment 2C of the Ouachita 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 AR0046141 (“Permit”) to Respondent on August 1, 2017. The Permit became effective on September 1, 2017. DEQ issued a minor modification to the Permit with an effective date of October 1, 2020. The Permit expires on August 31, 2022.

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, August 31, 2022.

12. On September 2, 2021, and December 6, 2021, Respondent was notified via letter that the Permit would expire on August 31, 2022, and that in order to continue the regulated activity, a complete renewal application must be submitted no later than March 4, 2022.

13. DEQ received a Permit renewal application from Respondent on March 4, 2022, and on March 8, 2022, DEQ notified Respondent that its application was incomplete. The incomplete application submitted on March 4, 2022, was missing the following information:

- (1) DEQ Form 1, Section I must be signed by the Cognizant Official in the Cognizant Official section.
- (2) DEQ Form 1, Section B.1 requires submittal of a topographic map. This map must show a minimum of one mile around the property boundary of the facility and the outfall location must also be marked on this map. Please note that a Google Earth satellite photo does not meet the requirements of this section.
- (3) A Disclosure Statement must be submitted.
- (4) A summer effluent temperature must be submitted on EPA Form 2E. If this information is not available, the form must reflect that the data will be collected as soon as possible.

14. On March 29, 2022, DEQ notified Respondent via email that the information requested by letter dated March 8, 2022, had not been received.

15. The complete Permit renewal application was not received by March 4, 2022. Failure to submit the complete Permit renewal application by March 4, 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. On or before the effective date of this Order, Respondent shall submit an administratively 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 (\$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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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 21ST DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2022.



JULIE LINCK, CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR, ENVIRONMENT

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CONTENT:

Arkansas District Council of the Assemblies of God-Mountain Valley Retreat Center

BY: 

(Signature)

Ronnie Gilmore

(Typed or printed name)

TITLE: Operating Officer

DATE: 10/18/22
