



July 24, 2019

Email: [cblack@bethelheightsark.org](mailto:cblack@bethelheightsark.org)

Honorable Cynthia Black  
Mayor, City of Bethel Heights  
530 Sunrise Drive  
Bethel Heights, AR 72764

RE: Request for Immediate Interim Measures, Increased Sampling, and Communication Plan  
State No-Discharge Permit No. 4725-WR-5  
AFIN 04-00630

Dear Mayor Black,

On July 16, 2019, the DEQ Office of Water Quality (DEQ-OWQ) conducted a sampling inspection at the City of Bethel Heights (Bethel Heights) wastewater treatment facilities. The results of this sampling inspection revealed numerous exceedances of water quality standards and violations of the above-referenced permit and Ark. Code Ann. §§ 8-4-217(a)(2) and (3). Therefore, DEQ requests the following:

- Bethel Heights shall immediately begin weekly sampling for Fecal Coliform Bacteria (FCB) and *E. coli* for each drip field where surfacing wastewater or any pooling or ponding of waters is noted. Photographs of each drip field, copies of the analytical results, and chain of custody forms shall be emailed to the DEQ-OWQ Enforcement Branch within five (5) days of the sampling event.
- Bethel Heights shall, **by the close of business on Friday, July 26, 2019**, submit to DEQ-OWQ, an Interim Plan describing the operational and best management practices that Bethel Heights will immediately undertake to (1) eliminate violations of surface water quality standards, specifically FCB and *E. coli*; (2) eliminate wastewater surfacing violations; and (3) eliminate risk to human health or the environment through unpermitted discharges of surfacing wastewater or stormwater comingled with wastewater.

- Bethel Heights shall, **by the close of business on Friday, July 26, 2019**, submit to DEQ-OWQ a Communications Plan detailing how Bethel Heights will (1) immediately (by COB Thursday) notify the public of the surfacing wastewater in the drip fields that exceed water quality standards and are also violations of above-referenced permit; and (2) provide a schedule for keeping the public informed regarding the water quality of any surfacing wastewater in the permitted drip irrigation fields. In preparing notifications to the public, Bethel Heights shall engage with the Arkansas Department of Health to obtain guidance on what information to include that will address public health concerns.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Richard Healey  
Enforcement Branch Manager  
Office of Water Quality

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