



CITY OF HOT SPRINGS

Utilities Department

780 Adams Street

Hot Springs, Arkansas 71901

May 15, 2026

Sent via email

Leslie Allen-Daniel
Enforcement Analyst – Water Division
Arkansas Energy & Environment – Environmental Quality
5301 Northshore Drive
North Little Rock, AR 72118-5317

**RE: City of Hot Springs Utilities
Permit No. AR0033880 / AFIN 26-00145 / CAO LIS 22-007
Gulpha Sewer Basin, Gulpha Pump Station, Davidson Drive Wastewater Treatment Plant,
Gulpha Creek and Spencer Bay**

Dear Ms. Allen-Daniel,

This report summarizes progress on major wastewater infrastructure improvements underway for the City of Hot Springs. Current work includes interceptor sewer construction in the Lower Gulpha Basin and Upper Spring Street Basin, and upgrades at the Davidson Drive Wastewater Treatment Plant including UV disinfection, tertiary filtration expansion, and a new outfall to Lake Catherine. Multiple contractors are working concurrently to improve system capacity, reliability, and long-term operational performance. Improvements to the Gulpha Pump Station is substantially complete and the new Gulpha Force Main is operational.

Gulpha Basin Gravity System Improvements

Significant gravity sewer improvements are currently underway within the Lower Gulpha Basin and Upper Spring Street Basin to increase conveyance capacity and improve long-term system reliability. Construction activities are being performed under multiple contracts, allowing several interceptor system segments to progress simultaneously.

Lower Gulpha Interceptor

Schedule 1

Contractor: Coakley Company, Inc.

Construction activities continue to progress steadily. Coakley has completed installation of manholes and HOBAS gravity sewer pipe from MH #4 through MH #14. Crews are also continuing the bore operation beneath Highway 270 (Malvern Avenue) for installation of the 60-inch steel casing and 42-inch gravity sewer carrier pipe. Approximately 200 linear feet of the bore has been completed, with approximately 117 linear feet remaining. Coakley currently anticipates connecting the new interceptor to the new Gulpha Pump Station within approximately 60 days following completion of the bore operation, with the tie-in anticipated between June and July.

Schedule 2

Contractor: Belt Construction, Inc.

Major construction activities remain underway. Belt Construction continues progressing on the main line installation, with approximately 33% of the main line work completed. Work remains active within easements and right-of-way areas, with continued coordination involving utilities, property access, and field conditions as construction advances. Minor alignment adjustments are anticipated due to previously unidentified utilities. Project completion is currently projected for March 2027.

Upper Gulpha Interceptor (Spring Street)

Schedule 1

Contractor: Boyles Construction (Paron, Arkansas)

This phase of the project includes approximately one mile of new gravity sewer extending north from Spring Street at Vernel. Approximately 76% of the 15-inch and 18-inch gravity sewer pipe has been installed and successfully tested.

Schedule 2

Contractor: Diamond Construction Company (North Little Rock, Arkansas)

This project achieved substantial completion in March of 2026.

Gulpha Pump Station Improvements

The Gulpha Pump Station Improvements project is substantially complete and nearing final closeout. Punch list activities are ongoing, and the contractor is expected to request final completion upon completion of remaining corrective items. Final retainage billing is anticipated within the next 30 days.

Gulpha Force Main

Phase 1 Contractor: Coakley Company, Inc.

Phase 2 Contractor: Diamond Construction Company

Phase 1 of the Gulpha Force Main improvements are complete. Phase 2 Diamond is relaying approximately 200 feet of pipe and will complete April 2026. The project includes installation of 24-inch, 30-inch, and 36-inch C-900 pipe.

Davidson Drive Wastewater Treatment Plant

Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR): Max Foote Construction

The project continues progressing through final startup and commissioning, with overall completion at approximately 93 percent. The project has exceeded the original substantial completion date and is currently operating under a forthcoming time extension request.

Recent progress includes startup and commissioning of chemical feed systems, including LSA, magnesium hydroxide, ACH, and polymer systems. Additional completed work includes water heater and plumbing modifications at the filter building, pipe insulation and heat tracing at the aeration basins, concrete curb installations, and filter expansion equipment pads.

Upcoming work will focus on substantial completion punch list items, completion of chemical feed piping, secondary clarifier repairs, final electrical terminations, and continued site cleanup and grading activities. Coordination with the City will continue for generator testing, load bank testing, and final commissioning activities.

Several change requests remain under review, including filter building PLC upgrades, VFD installations for progressive cavity pumps, seal water drain modifications, and a no-cost contract time extension request. Builders risk insurance for the project currently expires June 4, 2026.

Davidson Drive WWTP Outfall

Contractor: Kajacs Contractors

Construction of the WWTP Outfall and Diffuser project is approximately 87 percent complete and remains in the final stages of pipeline installation. Recent work has included installation of HOBAS pipe approaching the treatment plant tie-in point, with approximately 150 linear feet remaining at the time of the latest progress meeting.

Current activities include trenching, excavation, and rock hammering associated with the final pipeline installation into the treatment facility. Upcoming work includes final tie-in operations, pipeline testing, and demolition of the existing outfall piping.

The project currently remains within the original contract duration for final completion, which is scheduled for June 12, 2026, although a forthcoming contract time extension request is anticipated. No major construction issues, RFIs, change orders, or non-conformance items were identified during the reporting period.

Davidson Drive WWTP UV Effluent Structure

Contractor: Max Foote Construction Company

Work on the UV Effluent Structure continues in coordination with the broader treatment plant improvements project. Current activities include miscellaneous metals installation, electrical equipment relocation, and preparation for final tie-ins associated with the outfall improvements.

The project has exceeded the original contract completion dates and is operating under a forthcoming contract time extension request. Substantial completion activities, punch list development, and commissioning coordination are ongoing as the project advances toward final closeout.

Davidson Drive WWTP Tertiary Filter No. 3 & 4 Additions

Contractor: Max Foote Construction Company

Construction of the Tertiary Filter No. 3 & 4 Additions project continues progressing on schedule and is approximately 33 percent complete. Current activities include equipment coordination, foundation and concrete work, and ongoing piping coordination associated with influent header modifications.

The project currently has no pending submittals and one active RFI related to filter inlet piping elevations. Substantial completion remains scheduled for April 11, 2027, with final completion anticipated May 11, 2027.

System Performance

There were no April SSO events at the Gulpha Pump Station and nearby manholes affecting Spencer Bay and Gulpha Creek.

If you have any questions, please contact Bobby Harris at (501) 651-7734 or by email at BHarris@hotspringsar.gov.

Sincerely,

Bill Burrough
City Manager

cc: **City of Hot Springs** - Bill Burrough, City Manager; Denny McPhate, Deputy City Manager; Harold Mauldin, Wastewater Facilities Operations Manager; Todd Piller, Capital Project Manager;
Consultants - Craig Johnson, Crist Engineers

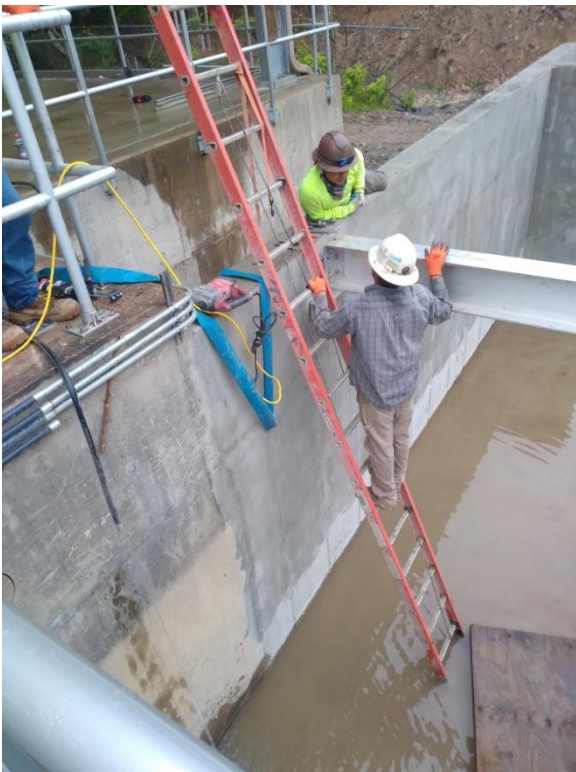
Davidson Drive WWTP Improvements



Outfall Well



Outfall Well



Outfall Well



Outfall Well

Davidson Drive WWTP Improvements



Outfall Construction



New Plumbing in Filter Building

Gulpha Basin Gravity System Improvements



Gravity Main Construction

Gulpha Basin Gravity System Improvements



Boring under Malvern Avenue

Gulpha Basin Gravity System Improvements



Gulpha Basin Gravity System Improvements

