



CITY OF HOT SPRINGS

Utilities Department

780 Adams Street

Hot Springs, Arkansas 71901

April 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, improvements to the Gulpha Pump Station and Force Main, 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.

Gulpha Basin Gravity System Improvements

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

Project Update - Lower Gulpha Interceptor

Schedule 1

Contractor: Coakley Company, Inc.

Work continues to progress steadily, with crews actively completing the bore beneath Highway 270 (Malvern Avenue) for installation of the 60-inch steel casing and 42-inch gravity sewer carrier pipe. Pipeline installation is also advancing north of the bore location. The project remains on track for substantial completion in October 2026.

Schedule 2

Contractor: Belt Construction, Inc. (Texarkana, Arkansas)

Initial construction activities are underway, including clearing and grubbing of easements and right-of-way areas. Early pipeline installation has begun using bore methods, and materials are being delivered as staging areas are established. Minor alignment adjustments are expected due to previously unidentified utilities. Completion is projected for March 2027.

Upper Gulpha Interceptor (Spring Street)

Schedule 1

Contractor: Boyles Construction (Paron, Arkansas)

This phase includes approximately one mile of new gravity sewer extending north from Spring Street at Vernel. Installation of 15-inch and 18-inch PVC and HDPE pipe is ongoing, with an estimated construction duration of 400 days.

Schedule 2

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

Construction remains active, with a bore currently underway beneath Highway 70 (Grand Avenue). This phase continues to move toward its anticipated completion in May 2026.

Gulpha Pump Station Improvements

Final construction and startup activities are complete. No outstanding issues or documentation items are currently pending.

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 and UV Disinfection Upgrade

Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR): Max Foote Construction

The project continues progressing through final startup and commissioning, with overall completion at approximately 91 percent. Recent milestones include permanent power transfer, digester overflow rerouting, and installation of structural components such as handrails and foundations.

Current efforts are focused on UV system adjustments, chemical system installation, electrical work, and site improvements. Manufacturer support is scheduled to address minor equipment issues, including airflow metering and UV gate performance.

Upcoming work will prioritize system integration, paving, grading, and completion of filter expansions.

Coordination with the City will continue through final startup and closeout activities.

Davidson Drive Wastewater Treatment Plant Outfall

Contractor: Kajacs Contractors

Construction is approximately 70 percent and scheduled to be complete June 12, 2026. Recent progress includes installation of Manhole A4 and significant pipeline advancement toward the treatment plant.

Ongoing work includes trenching, excavation, and rock removal, with remaining pipeline installation continuing toward the effluent structure. No issues or delays were reported during this period.

UV Effluent Structure

Contractor: Max Foote Construction Company

Work is ongoing in coordination with treatment plant improvements, focusing on structural and mechanical components of the UV outfall system.

The project is nearing completion, with a slight schedule overrun and a time extension anticipated. Substantial completion currently targeted for May 1, 2026.

Tertiary Filter No. 3 & 4 Additions

Contractor: Max Foote Construction Company

Construction is in the early stages, with activities including foundation preparation, equipment coordination, and initial concrete work.

The project is approximately 25 percent complete and progressing as scheduled. Substantial completion is anticipated in April 2027, with final completion in May 2027.

System Performance

Hot Springs Utilities reported three SSO events in the Gulpha Creek Basin for March.

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
Arkansas Energy & Environment Division of Environmental Quality – Richard Healey

MARCH 2026 SSO REPORT FOR MANHOLES 1754,4117 and 4118

Gulpha Sewer Basin

Manhole 1754

Overflow Date: 3/7/2026
End Date: 3/8/2026
Cause: Rainfall, Equipment
Discharge: Approximately 168,000 gallons discharged to Gulpha Creek
Actions Taken: Hydro cleaned, Environmental Cleanup
Code Red Issued: 3/7/2026
Code Red Cancelled: 3/20/2026

Manhole 4117

Overflow Date: 3/7/2026
End Date: 3/8/2026
Cause: Rainfall
Discharge: Approximately 84,000 gallons discharged to Gulpha Creek
Actions Taken: Hydro cleaned, Environmental Cleanup
Code Red Issued: 3/7/2026
Code Red Cancelled: 3/20/2026

Manhole 4118

Overflow Date: 3/7/2026
End Date: 3/8/2026
Cause: Rainfall
Discharge: Approximately 105,000 gallons discharged to Gulpha Creek
Actions Taken: Hydro cleaned, Environmental Cleanup
Code Red Issued: 3/7/2026
Code Red Cancelled: 3/20/2026

LAB RESULTS

Sample Date:	3/7/2026
Site No.	E. coli (cfu)
1	>2419.6

Sample Date:	3/10/2026
Site No.	E. coli (cfu)
2	>2419.6
3	1299.7
4	1299.7
5	>2419.6

Sample Date	3/13/2026
Site No.	E. coli (cfu)
2	1986.3
3	648.8
4	298.7
5	109.5

Sample Date:	3/16/2026
Site No.	E. coli (cfu)
2	145.5
3	238.2
4	71.2
5	195.6

Sample Date:	3/18/2026
Site No.	E. coli (cfu)
2	203.5
3	87.3
4	43.9
5	12.2

CodeRed/Public Notification Signage



Public Notice Signage Place on 3/7/2026 – Removed on 3/20/2026

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP

Because Manholes 1754, 4117 and 4118 had not been previously identified or selected for reporting, it was not flagged for documentation. As a result, field crews were not aware of the need to record any associated cleanup activities.

GULPHA BASIN IMPROVEMENTS



Cutting head for 60" pipe bore under Malvern Highway