



CITY OF HOT SPRINGS

Utilities Department

780 Adams Street

Hot Springs, Arkansas 71901

July 13, 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/ CAO 25-19
Gulpha Sewer Basin, Gulpha Pump Station, Davidson Drive Wastewater Treatment Plant,
Gulpha Creek and Spencer Bay**

Dear Ms. Allen-Daniel,

The City of Hot Springs continues making significant progress on several major wastewater infrastructure projects designed to increase collection system capacity, improve treatment performance, and enhance the long-term reliability of the City's wastewater system.

Construction remains active across multiple project areas, including the Lower Gulpha Interceptor, the Upper Gulpha (Spring Street) Interceptor, and ongoing improvements at the Davidson Drive Wastewater Treatment Plant. Current treatment plant work includes final upgrades to the UV disinfection system, continued construction of the tertiary filtration facilities, and completion of the new outfall to Lake Catherine. At the same time, the Gulpha Pump Station Improvements and the Gulpha Force Main projects have been completed and are now in operation, with only minor warranty-related items remaining at the pump station.

These projects continue to advance under multiple construction contracts, allowing several major components of the City's wastewater improvement program to progress simultaneously. While several projects have reached final completion or are in the final stages of closeout, construction continues on the remaining interceptor and treatment plant improvements, with substantial completion dates extending into 2027.

Project Update

Lower Gulpha Interceptor

Schedule 1 – Contractor: Coakley Company, Inc.

Work on Schedule 1 continues to progress, with major construction activity focused on the Highway 270 / Malvern Avenue crossing and installation of the 42-inch gravity sewer interceptor. The bore beneath Highway 270 has advanced approximately 280 linear feet, leaving approximately 37 linear feet remaining before completion of the crossing. In addition to the bore work, Coakley has installed approximately 4,831 linear feet of 42-inch gravity sewer pipe to date. Overall progress remains steady, and substantial completion is still anticipated for October 2026.

Schedule 2 – Contractor: Belt Construction, Inc. — Texarkana, Arkansas

Schedule 2 continues to make strong progress. All clearing and grubbing activities have been completed, and all HOBAS pipe and manholes for the project are currently on site.

To date, approximately 9,900 linear feet of 36-inch and 30-inch gravity sewer pipe has been installed, with approximately 3,900 linear feet remaining. While the contract time extends through March 2027, the project is currently advancing ahead of schedule.

Continued coordination remains ongoing as construction progresses through easement and right-of-way areas, including field adjustments related to existing utilities and site-specific conditions.

Upper Gulpha Interceptor (Spring Street)

Schedule 1 – Contractor: Boyles Construction (Paron, Arkansas)

This phase extends approximately one mile north from Spring Street at Vernel and includes the installation of 15-inch and 18-inch PVC and HDPE gravity sewer mains.

At this time, 100% of the gravity sewer pipe has been installed. The contractor is currently performing vacuum testing on the manholes, and restoration activities are actively underway. Overall, the project is progressing well, and the contractor anticipates completion in the near future. It is also important to note that this project ties directly into the larger Gulpha Interceptor improvements.

Schedule 2 – Contractor: Diamond Construction Company (North Little Rock, Arkansas)

This phase of the project is now 100% complete, has reached final completion, and has been successfully commissioned. All major construction activities have been completed, and the completed improvements are now in service. This project represents another completed component of the City's ongoing wastewater infrastructure improvements and supports the larger effort to improve system capacity.

Gulpha Pump Station Improvements

The Gulpha Pump Station Improvements project is complete. During the warranty period, staff discussed two outstanding issues. A valve actuator issue is awaiting replacement equipment with an estimated two-week lead time. A pressure transmitter leak is also awaiting replacement, with an estimated two- to three-week lead time; meeting notes indicate the replacement is expected closer to two weeks.

Gulpha Force Main

Phases 1 and 2 of the Gulpha Force Main improvements are complete. The project included installation of 24-inch, 30-inch, and 36-inch C-900 pipe. No additional work is pending under these phases.

Davidson Drive Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

The Davidson Drive Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements contract as of June 23, 2026 has overall project completion reported at 95%. Final Completion for Package B is pending punch list completion and final walkthrough.

A walkthrough for Package C's UV effluent system was scheduled for July 10, 2026. Additional remaining work includes a generator load bank demonstration scheduled for July 24, 2026, as well as an Entergy transformer service cancellation required for MCC9 removal.

Davidson Drive Wastewater Treatment Plant Tertiary Filters

The contract status was updated as of June 23, 2026. Construction began following the contract start date of November 3, 2025. Substantial Completion is scheduled for April 11, 2027, with Final Completion anticipated on May 11, 2027.

The project is approximately 42% through its contract duration, with over half of the contract time remaining.

Davidson Drive Wastewater Treatment Plant Outfall

Contractor: Kajacs Contractors

The KAJACS contract status was updated as of June 23, 2026.

The project is complete. A project walkthrough is scheduled for July 10, 2026.

UV Effluent Structure

Work is complete for the UV outfall system. A walkthrough for Package C's UV effluent system was scheduled for July 10, 2026.

CAO Time Extension Status

Two contract amendment packages were reported as fully executed on May 12, 2026:

- CAO 08-099-002 / COA AMEND-25-06 (Plant and Collection Projects)
- CAO LIS 22-007 / CAO AMEND-25-19 (Gulpha Basin Pump Station and Collection Projects)

System Performance

There were no June 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, Joseph Stadler, Assistant Project Manager;
Consultants - Craig Johnson, Crist Engineers