



CITY OF HOT SPRINGS

Utilities Department

780 Adams Street

Hot Springs, Arkansas 71901

June 12, 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 to advance several major wastewater infrastructure projects aimed at improving collection system capacity, treatment performance, and long-term reliability.

Current construction efforts include major interceptor sewer improvements in the Lower Gulpha Basin and Upper Spring Street Basin, as well as ongoing upgrades at the Davidson Drive Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Davidson Drive improvements include UV disinfection upgrades, expansion of the tertiary filtration system, and installation of a new outfall to Lake Catherine.

These projects involve multiple contractors working under separate contracts, allowing several key improvements to move forward at the same time. The Gulpha Pump Station Improvements project is now substantially complete, and the new Gulpha Force Main is in service.

Gulpha Basin Gravity System Improvements

The Lower Gulpha Interceptor project remains one of the City's largest wastewater collection system improvement projects. The work is designed to increase sewer capacity, improve system performance, and provide greater reliability throughout the Gulpha Basin.

Lower Gulpha Interceptor Schedule 1

Coakley Company continues to make good progress on Schedule 1 of the project. Installation of manholes and HOBAS gravity sewer pipe has been completed between MH #3 and MH #14.

Work also continues on the bore beneath Highway 270. Approximately 220 feet of the bore has been completed, with about 97 feet remaining. Once this work is finished, Coakley expects to connect the new interceptor to the new Gulpha Pump Station within approximately 60 days.

Schedule 2

Contractor: Belt Construction, Inc.

Belt Construction continues installation of the Lower Gulpha Interceptor main line. Approximately 70 percent of the work has been completed. This portion of the project is currently expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Upper Gulpha Interceptor (Spring Street)

Schedule 1

Contractor: Boyles Construction (Paron, Arkansas)

Boyles Construction is installing approximately one mile of new gravity sewer north of Spring Street near Vernel. About 86% of the new 15-inch and 18-inch sewer line 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 complete and operational. A certificate of occupancy has been issued, and only minor punch list and warranty items remain.

Gulpha Force Main

Phase 1 Contractor: Coakley Company, Inc.

Phase 2 Contractor: Diamond Construction Company

Both phases of the Gulpha Force Main project have been completed, and the new force main is now in service.

Davidson Drive Wastewater Treatment Plant

Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR): Max Foote Construction

The Davidson Drive Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements project is in its final stages. Substantial completion has been achieved, and crews are focused on punch list items, corrective work, startup activities, and project closeout.

Contract Status

The project schedule has been adjusted through four approved change orders. There are currently no pending change orders. Remaining work includes startup coordination, specialty system work, corrective items, and final closeout activities.

Work Completed This Reporting Period

Over the past month, work has focused on project closeout and preparing the facility for final turnover.

Key accomplishments included:

- Completion of the substantial completion walkthrough.
- Installation of miscellaneous metals at the outfall structure.
- Continued plumbing work in the filter building.
- Completion of bollard coating.
- Installation of protective jacketing on chemical feed piping.

These activities move the project closer to full operation and final acceptance.

Current Work in Progress

Current work includes:

- Site grading, seeding, and cleanup.
- Emergency repairs to Secondary Clarifiers 1 and 4.
- Chemical piping modifications in the Chemical Building.
- Completion of punch list items.
- Contractor demobilization.

The remaining work is focused on ensuring reliable operation and addressing final inspection items.

Schedule Status and Critical Items

Although the project is beyond the adjusted substantial completion date, it remains within the revised final completion schedule.

Upcoming activities include:

- Installation of the Atlas Copco flow meter.
- JB-1 actuator repair and installation.
- Progressive cavity pump seal repairs.
- Completion of final punch list and closeout items.

Several planned shutdowns are also required to complete final system connections and testing, including UV effluent shutdown activities, flow diversion through the new outfall structure, and piping corrections.

Chemical Building Water Supply

New water connections have been installed, but testing and commissioning are still needed before final acceptance.

Aeration Basin Flow Meter

Discussions continue regarding the aeration basin flow meter. This issue could affect startup and operational verification activities.

Tertiary Filter 3 & 4 Additions

The Tertiary Filter 3 & 4 Additions project continues to progress on schedule. The Notice to Proceed was issued on November 3, 2025, and substantial completion remains scheduled for April 11, 2027.

To date:

- 204 contract days have been used.
- 320 days remain until substantial completion.
- Overall progress is approximately 37 percent complete.

The project remains on schedule with no significant concerns.

UV Effluent Structure

The UV Effluent Structure project remains behind schedule.

Current status shows:

- 68 days beyond the original substantial completion date.
- 38 days beyond the original final completion date.

Cost Proposal No. 01 is currently under review. If approved, it would add 91 calendar days to the contract and extend substantial completion to June 30, 2026.

Overall Assessment

The City's wastewater improvement program continues to make steady progress. Major collection system improvements in the Gulpha Basin are advancing, with the new Gulpha Force Main now in service and the Gulpha Pump Station project complete.

At the Davidson Drive Wastewater Treatment Plant, the main project is nearing final completion. Current efforts are focused on punch list items, startup activities, corrective work, and final closeout tasks.

The Tertiary Filter 3 & 4 Additions project remains on schedule and progressing well. The UV Effluent Structure project continues to be the primary schedule challenge and will require additional time and coordination to reach completion.

System Performance

There were no May 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