



CITY OF HOT SPRINGS

Utilities Department

780 Adams Street

Hot Springs, Arkansas 71901

March 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
Progress Report – Gulpha Basin Projects**

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.

Lower Gulpha – Schedule 1

Construction continues on installation of approximately 5,700 linear feet of 42-inch FRP gravity sewer. Current work is focused on completing the bore beneath Highway 270 (Malvern Avenue) for installation of a 60-inch steel casing and 42-inch carrier pipe, with pipeline installation continuing north of the crossing. Based on current progress, substantial completion is projected for May 19, 2026, approximately three months ahead of schedule.

Lower Gulpha – Schedule 2

Work includes installation of approximately 14,000 linear feet of 30-inch and 36-inch FRP gravity sewer. Early construction activities have focused on clearing easements and right-of-way corridors, pipe staging, and installation of an initial bored pipeline segment. Approximately 2,700 linear feet of pipe has been installed to date, placing the project at about 19 percent complete. Completion is currently anticipated in May 2027.

Upper Spring Street – Schedule 1

Construction continues along the Spring Street corridor, extending approximately one mile north from Spring Street and Vernel. The project includes installation of 15-inch and 18-inch PVC and HDPE gravity sewer mains. Approximately 2,660 linear feet of pipe has been installed, and the project is about 53 percent complete.

Upper Spring Street – Schedules 2 & 3

This phase was modified after the City decided to not construct a sewer extension through Gulpha Gorge and the campground area. Construction is underway and the project is approximately 15 percent complete, with completion anticipated by May 2026.

Overall, interceptor construction across both basins continues to advance with multiple contractors progressing work simultaneously to improve system capacity and reliability.

Gulpha Pump Station Improvements (Package A)

The Gulpha Pump Station Improvements project is nearing completion as the contractor finishes startup and commissioning activities.

Recent work includes testing and startup of pumps, flow meters, and surge tanks, with two of the three pump systems successfully commissioned. Additional completed work includes replacement of the Old Gulpha valve, backfilling of the overflow pond, and installation of fencing at the pump station. Fencing installation is also underway at the Weir Box facility.

Remaining work includes installation of the VFD capacitor, replacement of the surge tank ball valve, final fencing installation, and completion of remaining site work. Once these activities are finished, the contractor will address substantial completion checklist items and begin project closeout.

The project remains on track to achieve substantial completion in March 2026 and final completion in April 2026.

Gulpha Force Main

Phases 1 and 2 of the Gulpha Force Main improvements have been completed. The project included installation of new 24-inch, 30-inch, and 36-inch force main piping to increase capacity and improve system reliability.

Davidson Drive Wastewater Treatment Plant and UV Disinfection Upgrade

Construction activities at the Davidson Drive Wastewater Treatment Plant continue as improvements move toward final system startup and commissioning.

Recent work includes installation of concrete at Junction Box 6, completion of the 54-inch influent tie-in, and tie-in work at Junction Box 4. Sidewalks, curbs, and additional concrete improvements have been completed at the Chemical Building.

UV Channel No. 1 has been placed into service, and startup activities have been completed for several process components including flow meters, sump pumps, electric valves, and the aeration basin control system. Additional improvements include rerouting the thickener overflow and coring effluent lines associated with the new tertiary filters.

Current construction activities include chemical piping installation, trenching for chemical feed lines, electrical work at the filter building, modifications to UV Channel No. 2, and rerouting of digester overflow piping. Upcoming work includes plant shutdown activities, permanent power transfer, mechanical equipment startup, and continued work within the Chemical Building.

UV Effluent Structure (Packages B & C)

Construction of the UV Effluent Structure continues in coordination with the treatment plant upgrades. Work is focused on completing structural and mechanical components associated with the UV outfall system.

Engineering is also reviewing the bulkhead plate installation to allow removal following completion of construction.

Tertiary Filter No. 3 & 4 Additions

Construction has begun on the tertiary filter expansion, including foundation preparation, construction of concrete walls, and preparation of the foundation subgrade. Current work includes installation of chemical piping, trenching for feed lines, electrical work, and foundation construction for the filter expansion. Additional work includes installation of filter header piping, valve actuators, and related mechanical equipment.

Davidson Drive Wastewater Treatment Plant Outfall (Packages D & E)

Construction of the new outfall to Lake Catherine is underway. Construction of the diffuser is complete. The contractor is installing the remainder of the outfall pipeline from the lake to the plant effluent box at the treatment plant.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (501) 651-7730 or by email at mledbetter@cityhs.net.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Monty Ledbetter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

Monty Ledbetter
Utilities Director

Attachments: February SSO Events; Lab Testing Results; Environmental Cleanup Documentation; Construction Progress Photos

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

FEBRUARY 2026 SSO REPORT

Gulpha Sewer Basin/Gulpha Creek and Spencer Bay

Manhole 1746

Manhole 1746 (Gulpha Basin Gravity System)

Overflow Date: 2/2/2026
End Date: 2/2/2026
Cause: Construction, Rainfall
Discharge: Approximately 1,000 Gallons discharged to ground
Actions Taken: Hydro Cleaned, Environmental Cleanup
Code Red Issued: NA
Code Red Cancelled: NA

Manhole 1746 (Gulpha Basin Gravity System)

Overflow Date: 2/4/2026
End Date: 2/4/2026
Cause: Construction, Rainfall
Discharge: Approximately 1,000 Gallons discharged to ground
Actions Taken: Hydro Cleaned, Environmental Cleanup
CodeRed Issued: NA
Code Red Canceled: NA

Overflows did not reach Gulpha Creek – no testing necessary

Manholes 1741, and 8575

Manhole 1741 (Gulpha Basin Gravity System)

Overflow Date: 2/15/2026
End Date: 2/16/2026
Cause: Construction, Rainfall
Discharge: Approximately 162,000 Gallons discharged to Gulpha Creek
Actions Taken: Hydro Cleaned, Environmental Cleanup

Manhole 8575 (Gulpha Basin Gravity System)

Overflow Date: 2/15/2026
End Date: 2/15/2026
Cause: Pump Failure, Rainfall
Discharge: Approximately 15,750 Gallons discharged to ground
Actions Taken: Hydro Cleaned, Environmental Cleanup

Lab Results

Sample Date:	2/15/2026
Site No.	E. coli (cfu)
1	579.5

Environmental Cleanup – 962 Westinghouse Drive – Manhole 1741



Manhole 1741 Before Cleanup



Manhole 1741 Before Cleanup



Manhole 1741 During Cleanup



Manhole 1741 During Cleanup

Environmental Cleanup – 962 Westinghouse Drive – Manhole 1741



Manhole 1741 During Cleanup



Manhole 1741 During Cleanup



Manhole 1741 After Cleanup



Manhole 1741 After Cleanup –



Davidson Drive WWTP Outfall Construction



Davidson Drive WWTP Outfall Construction



Davidson Drive WWTP Discharge



Davidson Drive WWTP Discharge