

STATE CONSTRUCTION PERMIT

Permit Number: AR0053384C1

Permittee:

Exploratory Ventures, LLC
PO Box 707
Osceola, AR 72370

Consulting Engineer:

Andrew Rike, P.E.
Harbor Environmental, Inc.
5800 Evergreen Drive
Little Rock, AR 72205

This permit allows the permittee listed above to construct the wastewater treatment system in accordance with the permit application and plans and specifications which were received on November 20, 2025, with all additional technical information received by January 15, 2026, under authority of the Arkansas Water and Air Pollution Control Act (Arkansas Code Annotated § 8-4-101 et seq. and Arkansas Code Annotated § 8-4-201 et seq.) and the following terms and conditions.

1. The treatment system shall be constructed in accordance with the final plans and specifications as submitted to the Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ). In case any statement or representation in the aforementioned documents is found to be incorrect, this approval may be revoked.
2. There shall be no deviation from the permitted plans and specifications unless the revisions have been submitted for review and written approval is received.
3. Within thirty (30) days of completion of the construction the permittee shall submit a Notice of Completion of Construction to the Division (Permits Branch of the Office of Water Quality) that the facility has been constructed in accordance with the approved plans and specifications. The certification shall be signed by the Responsible Official as well as stamped and signed by a Professional Engineer (P.E.) licensed in the state of Arkansas. The Notice of Completion of Construction form is located at the following web link:

<https://www.adeq.state.ar.us/water/permits/npdes/individual/pdfs/state-construction-permit-completion-of-construction.pdf>

4. This permit is issued in reliance upon the statements and representations made in the application and the plans and specifications. Issuance of this State Construction Permit does not guarantee satisfactory performance of the treatment system. The permittee shall ensure that water quality standards are not violated. Any modifications to the treatment facility necessary to meet water quality standards are the responsibility of the permittee and would require a modification to this State Construction Permit.
5. A State Construction Permit for the addition of a new treatment system to the facility does not constitute an NPDES permit. Issuance of a State Construction Permit for construction of a treatment system in no way guarantees or assumes that an application for an NPDES permit to operate the system will be approved or an NPDES permit will be issued.
6. A complete "Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Manual" of the wastewater treatment system shall be developed by the facility consultant for the operator's use before the plant is in operation.
7. Failure to begin construction within one (1) year of the effective date may result in termination of this permit if a request for an extension is not submitted to the Division in a timely manner.
8. The permittee must submit notification of the start of construction within fifteen (15) days after construction has begun.

9. If a construction site will disturb greater than or equal to one (1) acre and less than five (5) acres, the permittee shall comply with the requirements in PC&EC Rule 6.203 for Stormwater discharge associated with a small construction site, as defined in PC&EC Rule 6. If the construction site will disturb five (5) acres or more, the permittee shall comply with the terms of the Stormwater Construction General Permit Number ARR150000 prior to the start of construction. BMPs must be implemented regardless of the size.
10. This facility is located as follows: Latitude: 35° 37' 08.43" N; Longitude: 90° 00' 00.26" W in Mississippi County, Arkansas.
11. The receiving waters for this facility are: the Mississippi River in Segment 6C of the Mississippi River Basin. The outfalls are located at the following coordinates:
 - a. Existing Outfall EV201: Latitude: 35° 39' 04.01" N; Longitude: 89° 54' 48.40" W
 - b. Existing Outfall EV202: Latitude: 35° 39' 04.01" N; Longitude: 89° 54' 48.38" W
 - c. Proposed Outfall EV203: Latitude: 35° 39' 03.86" N; Longitude: 89° 54' 47.81" W
12. The construction will include addition of a new treatment system and Outfall EV203 including a collection basin, sand filters, filtered water basin, and backwash basin with a design flow of 1.27 MGD. The existing treatment system consists of:
 - a. Outfall EV201: oil removal (separate oil and water using pH adjustment, chemical treatment, and/or decanting), homogenization, metals removal (remove the metals via pH adjustment, coagulation/flocculation, and dissolved air floatation (DAF) units), clarification, aeration for iron oxidization, filtration, and sludge processing with a design flow of 1.25 MGD.
 - b. Outfall EV202: sedimentation pond with a variable flow.
13. If the permittee wishes to continue an activity regulated by this permit after the expiration date of this permit, the permittee must apply for and obtain a new permit. The complete application shall be submitted at least 180 days before the expiration date of this permit. The Director may grant permission to submit an application less than 180 days in advance but no later than the permit expiration date. Conditions of this permit will continue in effect past the expiration date pending issuance of a new permit if:
 - a. The permittee has submitted a timely and complete application as described in Rule 6.202(B); and
 - b. The Director, through no fault of the permittee, does not issue a new permit prior to the expiration date of this permit.

Effective Date: March 20, 2026

Expiration Date: February 28, 2031

Stacie R. Wassell
Deputy Director, Office of Water Quality
Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment
Division of Environmental Quality

March 18, 2026

Issue Date

STATEMENT OF BASIS

For State Construction Permit Number AR0053384C1.

The issuing office is:

Division of Environmental Quality
5301 Northshore Drive
North Little Rock, Arkansas 72118

The applicant is:

Exploratory Ventures, LLC
PO Box 707
Osceola, AR 72370

1. BASIS FOR PERMIT AND CONDITIONS

This permit is your authority to construct the wastewater treatment system in accordance with the permit application and plans and specifications which were received on November 20, 2025, with all additional technical information received by January 15, 2026. The issuance of this permit and conditions are based on the Arkansas Water and Air Pollution Control Act (Arkansas Code Annotated § 8-4-101 et seq. and Arkansas Code Annotated § 8-4-201 et seq.), Pollution Control and Ecology Commission (PC&EC) Rule 6.202, codified at 8 CAR § 25-202, NPDES Discharge permit AR0053384, and 40 C.F.R. § 122.26.

Specific permit conditions and their sources are listed as follows:

Conditions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 are self-explanatory. Condition 9 is based on 40 C.F.R. § 122.26. Conditions 10, 11, and 12 are based on the submitted application and Plans and Specifications. Condition 13 is based on Arkansas Code Annotated § 8-4-203(a).

2. PUBLIC NOTICE

The public notice of the draft permit was published for public comment on February 8, 2026. The last day of the comment period was thirty (30) days after the publication date. No public comments were received on the draft permit.

Copies of the draft permit and public notice were sent via email to the Corps of Engineers, the Regional Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism, the EPA, and the Arkansas Department of Health.

3. PERMIT FEE

In accordance with PC&EC Rule 9.402(A), codified at 8 CAR § 12-302(b)(2), the fee for issuance of a state construction permit is \$500.

4. SOURCES

1. Application Form 1 and Plans and Specifications dated November 20, 2025, with all additional technical information received by January 15, 2026.

2. 2014 Edition of Recommended Standards for Wastewater Facilities (Ten State Standards).
3. PC&EC Rules 6, 8, and 9, codified at 8 CAR Parts 25, 11, and 12, respectively.
4. A.C.A. § 8-4-217(b)(1)(C).
5. 40 C.F.R. § 122.26.

5. CONTACT PERSON

The DEQ contact person for submitting written comments, requesting information, or obtaining copies of the application, permit, and the Statement of Basis is:

Ben Wilson
Engineer
NPDES Branch, Office of Water Quality
Division of Environmental Quality
5301 Northshore Drive
North Little Rock, Arkansas 72118-5317
(501) 682-0803