

ADEM



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

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ONIS "TREY" GLENN, III, P.E.

DIRECTOR

BOB RILEY

GOVERNOR

July 10, 2006

**CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Mr. Clemon Ayers, Chairman
Blountsville HCR System
Post Office Box 157
Cullman, Alabama 35031

RE: Blountsville HCR System
Cullman County
Consent Order No. 06-068-CWP

Dear Mr. Ayers:

Please find enclosed ADEM Consent Order No. 06-068-CWP which requires you to take certain actions at the Blountsville HCR System in regard to alleged violations of the Alabama Water Pollution Control Act. This Consent Order has been issued with the consent of the Blountsville Utility Board and the Department. Please note that the assessed civil penalty is due within 45 days.

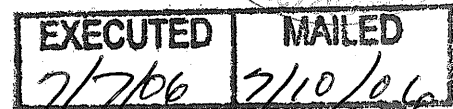
If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. James W. Grassiano at (334) 271-7801.

Sincerely,

James E. McIndoe, Chief
Water Division

Enclosures

Cc: Glenda Dean, ADEM-Water Division (e-mail)
Olivia H. Rowell, Office of General Counsel
ADEM-Public Affairs Office (e-mail)
Arthur Collins, US EPA Region IV



Birmingham Branch
110 Vulcan Road
Birmingham, Alabama 35209-4702
(205) 942-6168
(205) 941-1603 [Fax]

Decatur Branch
2715 Sandlin Road, S.W.
Decatur, Alabama 35603-1333
(256) 353-1713
(256) 340-9359 [Fax]

Mobile Branch
2204 Perimeter Road
Mobile, Alabama 36615-1131
(251) 450-3400
(251) 479-2593 [Fax]

Mobile - Coastal
4171 Commanders Drive
Mobile, Alabama 36615-1421
(251) 432-6533
(251) 432-6598 [Fax]



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IN THE MATTER OF:

Blountsville HCR System

NPDES Permit No. AL0053643

CONSENT ORDER NO. 06-068-CWP

This Special Order by Consent is made and entered into by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (hereinafter "the Department") and the Blountsville Utility Board (hereinafter the "Permittee") pursuant to the provisions of the Alabama Environmental Management Act, Code of Alabama, 1975, §§ 22-22A-1 through 22-22A-16, as amended, the Alabama Water Pollution Control Act, Code of Alabama, 1975, §§ 22-22-1 through 22-22-14, as amended, and the regulations promulgated pursuant thereto, and § 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1342.

1. The Permittee operates a wastewater treatment facility known as the Blountsville HCR System located on 69145 Main Street, Blountsville, in Blount County, Alabama. The wastewater treatment facility discharges pollutants from a point source into Blue Springs Creek, a water of the state.

2. The Department is a duly constituted department of the State of Alabama pursuant to §§ 22-22A-1 through 22-22A-16, Code of Alabama, 1975, as amended.

3. Pursuant to § 22-22A-4(n), Code of Alabama 1975, the Department is the state agency responsible for the promulgation and enforcement of water pollution control regulations in accordance with the federal Water Pollution Control Act, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1342 *et seq.* In addition, the Department is authorized to administer and enforce the provisions of the Alabama Water Pollution Control Act, §§ 22-22-1 through 22-22-14, Code of Alabama 1975, as amended.

4. On May 24, 2001, the Department issued NPDES Permit Number AL0053643 (hereinafter "the Permit") to the Permittee establishing limitations on the discharge of pollutants from such point source, designated therein as outfall number 0011 to Blue Springs Creek. The Permit requires that the Permittee monitor its discharges and submit periodic Discharge Monitoring Reports (hereinafter "DMRs") to the Department describing the results of the monitoring. The Permit also requires that the Permittee maintain in good working order all systems used by the Permittee to achieve compliance with the terms and conditions of the Permit.

5. The DMR's submitted to the Department by the Permittee indicate that the Permittee has discharged pollutants from such point source into the aforementioned Blue Springs Creek in violation of the limitations established in the Permit. The months the violations occurred along with the parameters violated are listed in Attachment 1.

6. The Permittee consents to abide by the terms of the following Consent Order and to pay the civil penalty assessed herein.

7. The Department has agreed to the terms of this Consent Order in an effort to resolve the violations cited herein without the unwarranted expenditure of State resources in further prosecuting the above violations. The Department has determined that the terms contemplated in this Consent Order are in the best interests of the citizens of Alabama.

CONTENTIONS

8. Pursuant to Code of Alabama, (1975), § 22-22A-5(18)c, in determining the amount of any penalty, the Department must give consideration to the seriousness of the violation, including any irreparable harm to the environment and any threat to the health or safety of the public; the standard of care manifested by the Permittee; the economic benefit which delayed compliance may confer upon the Permittee; the nature, extent and degree of success of the Permittee's efforts to minimize or mitigate the effects of such violation upon the environment; such person's history of previous violations; and the ability of the Permittee to pay such penalty. Any civil penalty assessed pursuant to this authority shall not be less than \$100.00 or exceed \$25,000.00 for each violation, provided however, that the total penalty assessed in an order issued by the Department shall not exceed \$250,000.00. Each day such violation continues shall be a separate violation. In arriving at this civil penalty, the Department has considered the following:

A. SERIOUSNESS OF THE VIOLATION: Violations consisted of exceedance of monthly average permit limitations for Biochemical Oxygen Demand Percent Removal, Ammonia as Nitrogen (NH₃-N), Fecal Coliform, and Total Suspended Solids

Percent Removal (i.e., conventional pollutants, except Ammonia as Nitrogen). The violations also consisted of daily maximum and daily minimum permit limitations for pH and Dissolved Oxygen (i.e., conventional pollutants). The Department has no evidence of irreparable harm to the environment or to the health and safety of the public as a result of these violations.

B. THE STANDARD OF CARE: The violations cited in the order were the result of failure to comply with permit limitations.

C. ECONOMIC BENEFIT WHICH DELAYED COMPLIANCE MAY HAVE CONFERRED: The Department has been unable to ascertain if there has been a significant economic benefit conferred by the delay of compliance with permit limitations.

D. EFFORTS TO MINIMIZE OR MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF THE VIOLATION UPON THE ENVIRONMENT: The Department has no evidence of irreparable harm to the environment or to the health and safety of the public as a result of these violations.

E. HISTORY OF PREVIOUS VIOLATIONS: Violations occurred prior to the period of time covered in this consent order.

F. THE ABILITY TO PAY: The Permittee has not alleged an inability to pay the civil penalty.

G. OTHER FACTORS: It should be noted that this Special Order by Consent is a negotiated settlement and, therefore, the Department has compromised the amount of the penalty it believes is warranted in this matter in the spirit of cooperation and the

desire to resolve this matter amicably, without incurring the unwarranted expense of litigation.

ORDER

THEREFORE, the Permittee, along with the Department, desires to resolve and settle the compliance issues cited above. The Department has carefully considered the facts available to it and has considered the six penalty factors enumerated in Code of Alabama, 1975,, § 22-22A-5(18)c, as well as the need for timely and effective enforcement, and the Department believes that the following conditions are appropriate to address the violations cited herein. Therefore, the Department and the Permittee agree to enter into this ORDER with the following terms and conditions:

A. The Permittee agrees to pay to the Department a civil penalty in the amount of Two Thousand Four Hundred dollars (\$2,400) in settlement of the violations alleged herein within 45 days from the effective date of this Consent Order. Failure to pay the civil penalty within 45 days from the effective date may result in the Department's filing a civil action in the Circuit Court of Montgomery County to recover the civil penalty.

B. The Permittee agrees that all penalties due pursuant to this Consent Order shall be made payable to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management by certified or cashier's check and shall be remitted to:

Office of General Counsel
Alabama Department of Environmental Management
P.O. Box 301463
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463

C. The Permittee agrees to prepare and submit an Engineering Report, to the Department, not later than ninety (90) days after the effective date of this Consent Order. The Engineering Report shall include a schedule for implementation (i.e., a Compliance Plan) that identifies the potential causes of noncompliance and that presents the results of an investigation into the changes necessary for the Permittee to implement to achieve compliance with NPDES Permit Number AL0053643. At a minimum, the Engineering Report shall address each of the following: the need for changes in maintenance and operating procedures, the need for modification of existing treatment works, and the need for new or additional treatment works. The Engineering Report shall be prepared by a professional engineer licensed to practice in the State of Alabama. If the Department determines through its review of the submitted Engineering Report that the submittal is not sufficient to accomplish compliance with the NPDES permit, then the Permittee shall modify the Engineering Report so that it does accomplish compliance. Modifications to the Engineering Report, if required, shall be submitted to ADEM no later than 30 days after receipt of the Department's comments. . The Permittee agrees to have completed implementation of the recommendations in the Engineering Report no later than the date contained in the compliance schedule which has been approved by the Department.

D. The Permittee agrees to prepare and submit to the Department a progress report describing in detail the Permittee's progress towards compliance with items in the Compliance Plan on or before January 31st and July 31st of each year that the Permittee's performance of the obligations under this Consent Order remain incomplete. In addition, not later than fourteen (14) days following each applicable due date that is contained in this Consent Order, the Permittee shall submit a written notice of noncompliance with the

requirements of that paragraph, if applicable. Notices of noncompliance shall state the cause of noncompliance, corrective action taken, and the Permittee's ability to comply with any remaining requirements of this Consent Order.

E. The Permittee agrees to comply with all terms, conditions, and limitations of the Permit no later than the date contained in the compliance schedule which has been approved by the Department and shall continue to do so each and every day thereafter during the life of the Permit.

F. The Permittee agrees that, after the effective date of this Consent Order, for every violation of the NPDES Permit effluent limitations, except for upsets that have been properly documented and substantiated as required by Part II.C.2. of NPDES Permit Number AL0053643, the Permittee shall pay to the Department the sum of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each and every daily maximum, daily minimum, weekly average, and minimum percent removal violation and two-hundred dollars (\$200.00) for each and every monthly average violation.

G. The parties agree that the cumulative stipulated penalties described in paragraphs F above shall under no circumstances exceed twenty-four thousand dollars (\$24,000). Once stipulated penalties of twenty-four thousand dollars (\$24,000) are due to the Department and violations continue to occur, or, should violations continue to occur after the date contained in the compliance schedule which has been approved by the Department, then the Department shall be free to issue additional orders or file suit against the Permittee in the Circuit Court of Montgomery County or other court of competent jurisdiction to enforce compliance of this Consent Order.

H. The Permittee agrees that payment of stipulated penalties due for

violations of effluent limitations under this Consent Order shall be due not later than the 28th day of the month following the monitoring period in which there were violations. Notification to the Permittee by the Department of the assessment of any stipulated penalty is not required.

I. The parties agree that this Consent Order shall apply to and be binding upon both parties, their directors, officers, and all persons or entities acting under or for them. Each signatory to this Consent Order certifies that he or she is fully authorized by the party he or she represents to enter into the terms and conditions of this Consent Order, to execute the Consent Order on behalf of the party represented, and to legally bind such party.

J. The parties agree that, subject to the terms of these presents and subject to provisions otherwise provided by statute, this Consent Order is intended to operate as a full resolution of the violations which are cited in this Consent Order.

K. The Permittee agrees that it is not relieved from any liability if it fails to comply with any provision of this Consent Order.

L. For purposes of this Consent Order only, the Permittee agrees that the Department may properly bring an action to compel compliance with the terms and conditions contained herein in the Circuit Court of Montgomery County. The Permittee also agrees that in any action brought by the Department to compel compliance with the terms of this Agreement, the Permittee shall be limited to the defenses of *Force Majeure*, compliance with this Agreement and physical impossibility. A *Force Majeure* is defined as any event arising from causes that are not foreseeable and are beyond the reasonable control of the Permittee, including its contractors and consultants, which could not be

overcome by due diligence (i.e., causes which could have been overcome or avoided by the exercise of due diligence will not be considered to have been beyond the reasonable control of the Permittee) and which delays or prevents performance by a date required by the Consent Order. Events such as unanticipated or increased costs of performance, changed economic circumstances, normal precipitation events, or failure to obtain federal, state, or local permits shall not constitute *Force Majeure*. Any request for a modification of a deadline must be accompanied by the reasons (including documentation) for each extension and the proposed extension time. This information shall be submitted to the Department a minimum of 10 working days prior to the original anticipated completion date. If the Department, after review of the extension request, finds the work was delayed because of conditions beyond the control and without the fault of the Permittee, the Department may extend the time as justified by the circumstances. The Department may also grant any other additional time extension as justified by the circumstances, but it is not obligated to do so.

M. The Department and the Permittee agree that the sole purpose of this Consent Order is to resolve and dispose of all allegations and contentions stated herein concerning the factual circumstances referenced herein. Should additional facts and circumstances be discovered in the future concerning the facility which would constitute possible violations not addressed in this Consent Order, then such future violations may be addressed in Orders as may be issued by the Director, litigation initiated by the Department, or such other enforcement action as may be appropriate, and the Permittee shall not object to such future orders, litigation or enforcement action based on the

issuance of this Consent Order if future orders, litigation or other enforcement action address new matters not raised in this Consent Order.

N. The Department and the Permittee agree that this Consent Order shall be considered final and effective immediately upon signature of all parties. This Consent Order shall not be appealable, and the Permittee does hereby waive any hearing on the terms and conditions of same.

O. The Department and the Permittee agree that this Consent Order shall not affect the Permittee's obligation to comply with any Federal, State, or local laws or regulations.

P. The Department and the Permittee agree that final approval and entry into this Consent Order are subject to the requirements that the Department give notice of proposed Orders to the public, and that the public have at least thirty (30) days within which to comment on the Consent Order.

Q. The Department and the Permittee agree that, should any provision of this Consent Order be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction or the Environmental Management Commission to be inconsistent with Federal or State law and therefore unenforceable, the remaining provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

R. The Department and the Permittee agree that any modifications of this Consent Order must be agreed to in writing signed by both parties.

S. The Department and the Permittee agree that, except as otherwise set forth herein, this Consent Order is not and shall not be interpreted to be a permit or modification of an existing permit under Federal, State or local law, and shall not be

construed to waive or relieve the Permittee of its obligations to comply in the future with any permit

Executed in duplicate, with each part being an original.

BLOUNTSVILLE UTILITY BOARD

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

By: Clemens & Ayers

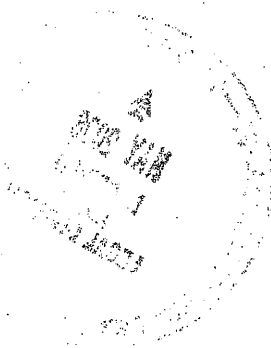
By: [Signature]

Its: Chairman

Its: Director

Date: 5/2/06

Date: 7/7/06



Sent to S. Glasscox 4/7/06

Attachment 1

AL0053643 Blountsville HCR System

DMR Value Limit Units Averaging Time

Outfall ID: 0011

May, 2004

DISSOLVED OXYGEN

1	2.66	6	mg/l	Daily Minimum
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June, 2004

DISSOLVED OXYGEN

2	4.4	6	mg/l	Daily Minimum
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July, 2004

PH

3	9.7	9	SU	Daily Maximum
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SOLIDS SUSP PERCENT REMOV

4	51	65	Percent	Monthly Average
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August, 2004

PH

5	9.1	9	SU	Daily Maximum
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SOLIDS SUSP PERCENT REMOV

6	36	65	Percent	Monthly Average
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September, 2004

PH

7	9.3	9	SU	Daily Maximum
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October, 2004

DISSOLVED OXYGEN

8	2.9	6	mg/l	Daily Minimum
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SOLIDS SUSP PERCENT REMOV

9	38	65	Percent	Monthly Average
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November, 2004

BOD 5-DAY PERCENT REMOVAL

10	50	65	Percent	Monthly Average
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FECAL COLIFORM

11	392	200	#/100 ml	Monthly Geo Mean
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SOLIDS SUSP PERCENT REMOV

12	-31	65	Percent	Monthly Average
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February, 2005

PH

13	9.2	9	SU	Daily Maximum
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May, 2005

PH

14	9.2	9	SU	Daily Maximum
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July, 2005

DISSOLVED OXYGEN

15	3.5	6	mg/l	Daily Minimum
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FECAL COLIFORM

16	292	200	#/100 ml	Monthly Geo Mean
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August, 2005

PH

17	9.2	9	SU	Daily Maximum
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September, 2005

BOD 5-DAY PERCENT REMOVAL

18	51	65	Percent	Monthly Average
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FECAL COLIFORM

19	381	200	#/100 ml	Monthly Geo Mean
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PH

20	9.1	9	SU	Daily Maximum
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SOLIDS SUSP PERCENT REMOV

21	48	65	Percent	Monthly Average
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January, 2006

DISSOLVED OXYGEN

22	3.9	6	mg/l	Daily Minimum
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FECAL COLIFORM

23	292	200	#/100 ml	Monthly Geo Mean
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NITROGEN AMMONIA TOTAL N

24	4.2	4	mg/l	Monthly Average
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