

MWD_14522-002_CP_20240628_COMPLIANCE
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Investigation Report

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Customer: City of Hawk Cove
Customer Number: CN602626699

Regulated Entity Name: CITY OF HAWK COVE WWTP

Regulated Entity Number: RN104265848

Investigation #	1994173	Incident Numbers	420683
Investigator:	DHIRAJ BASNET	Site Classification	DOMESTIC MINOR
Conducted:	04/24/2024 – 04/24/2024	SIC Code:	4952
Program(s):	WASTEWATER	NAIC Code:	221320
Investigation Type:	Compliance Investigation	Location:	3300 FT SE OF THE INTERSECTION OF CR 3613 AND CR 3608
Additional ID(s)	WQ0014522002 TX0141691		
Address:		Local Unit:	REGION 04 - DFW METROPLEX
		Activity Type(s)	WWRECONMIN - WW Recon Minor WWCMPL - WW Complaint

Principal(s):

Role	Name
RESPONDENT	CITY OF HAWK COVE

Contact(s):

Role	Title	Name	Phone
NOV CONTACT	MAYOR	HON DARREN EVANS	Office (903) 447-5330
REGULATED ENTITY CONTACT	PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR/OPERATOR	MR JAMES MULLIS	Office (903) 447-5330
REGULATED ENTITY CONTACT	CITY SECRETARY	MS PATRICIA PENDERGRAFT	Office (903) 447-5330
REGULATED ENTITY MAIL CONTACT	MAYOR	HON DARREN EVANS	Office (903) 447-5330

Other Staff Member(s):

Role	Name
Supervisor	GARY SINCLAIR
QA Reviewer	CAROL MOULTON

Associated Check List**Checklist Name**

WATER EQUIPMENT

WQ COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION

Unit Name

Hawk Cove Equipment

Hawk Cove Investigation

Investigation Comments:**INTRODUCTION**

On April 03, 2024, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Dallas/Fort Worth (DFW) Region received a complaint (Incident No. 420683) alleging poor operation and maintenance of the City of Hawk Cove Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The complainant also alleged a sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) in the City of Hawk Cove (Hunt County), Texas. The complaint was assigned to Water Quality Investigator Mr. Dhiraj Basnet and was investigated on April 24, 2024. The allegation was partially substantiated during the investigation. An exit-interview form detailing the findings from the investigation was emailed to Ms. Patricia Pendergraft, City Secretary, on April 25, 2024. Based on the findings of this investigation, A Notice of Violation (NOV) letter was issued to facilitate compliance.

GENERAL FACILITY AND PROCESS INFORMATION

The City of Hawk Cove owns and operates the City's wastewater collection system and the Hawk Cove WWTP, which is permitted to discharge a daily average flow of 0.2 million gallons per day (MGD) of treated domestic wastewater. The collection system consists of seven lift stations.

BACKGROUND

The complaint was filed as Incident No. 420683 and is associated to this investigation report.

The last comprehensive compliance investigation was conducted on April 14, 2020. Ten violations for failure to test the reduced pressure backflow assembly (RPBA) annually, properly maintain the collection system, submit the annual sludge report, maintain records of completed sludge trip tickets, secure the lift station in an intruder resistant manner, calibrate the flow meter at least annually to ensure accuracy, assure the quality of all measurements through the use of blanks, standards, duplicates, and spikes, provide monitoring results at the intervals specified in the permit, provide notification of any effluent violation which deviates from the permitted effluent limitation by more than 40%, and provide notification of changes to the permittee's contracted third party operations were cited and four violations have since been resolved (See Investigation Report No. 1643915 for more information). Six violations were being referred to the Enforcement Division and an agreed Docket Order, Docket No. 2021-0024-MWD-E (Enforcement Case No. 60231) was issued on December 06, 2023, and are currently under resolution schedule.

A complaint investigation alleging sewer back up in residential homes due to the city's sewer line issues was investigated on August 06, 2020. The allegation was not substantiated (See Investigation Report No. 1666498 for more information).

A complaint investigation alleging poor operation and maintenance of the Hawk Cove WWTP was investigated on September 24, 2021. The allegation was substantiated; however, the TCEQ was unable to pursue those violations due to the facility not having an active permit.

A complaint investigation alleging backup of wastewater into residential homes when the WWTP turns on and the WWTP is unmanned at the Hawk Cove WWTP was investigated on April 04, 2023. The allegation was not substantiated during the investigation, however, three other violations for failure to provide notification of an accidental discharge or spill to the TCEQ, provide ventilation for lift stations, and prevent the unauthorized discharge of wastewater were cited and have since been resolved (See Investigation Report No. 1819518 for more information).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The complaint received alleging that the WWTP was being poorly maintained and operated. The complaint also alleging that an SSO had occurred at a lift station. The investigator contacted the complainant on April 03, 2024, and informed of the assignment.

An unannounced onsite investigation was conducted by Mr. Basnet on April 24, 2024. The investigator arrived at the City Hall at 1:30 PM and met with Ms. Pendergraft, and Mr. James Hall, Maintenance Crew Leader, who were informed of the reason of the investigation. Ms. Pendergraft stated that she was unaware of any issues at the WWTP and said that Mr. James Mullis, Public Works Director/ Operator was on sick leave that day. Ms. Pendergraft said that the city had recently replaced the broken arm of the clarifier on April 17, 2024. She further stated that the city had hauled off all the sludge from the sludge holding tank and clarifier to make repair of the clarifier. She also mentioned that the Red Bird Lift Station was not working properly, and the city found that the main line connected to the lift station was collapsed due to ground movement and scheduled to be repaired that day.

The investigator then went to the WWTP accompanied by Mr. Hall. A walk through of the plant was conducted and observed the two unused aeration basins covered with duck weed. Mr. Hall stated that the rainwater accumulated into the aeration basins and duck weed started to grow very fast. The investigator then inspected the bar screen, aeration basins, clarifier, and sludge holding tank. The investigator observed the clarifier and noted uneven effluent flow from the clarifier weirs. This is addressed as a violation in this investigation report. The investigator also observed few floating solids that were blocking the flow and moderate algal growth in the clarifier. This is addressed as a violation in this investigation report. The investigator then went to inspect the Red Bird Lift Station. The Red Bird Lift Station was not in operation during the investigation due to the collapsed main line that was connected downstream to the lift station. Mr. Hall stated they found the issues at the lift station that morning at around 10 AM and scheduled to be repaired that day. Mr. Hall said that the line and the vent will be repaired and put back into service that day. The investigator noted excessive solids inside the wet well and this is addressed as a violation in this investigation report. The investigator also noted a broken vent at the lift station. This is addressed as noted and resolved violation since the city submitted documentation indicating the replacement of the vent and the line on June 11, 2024, which were repaired on April 24, 2024. The investigator did not observe any evidence of an SSO at the lift station.

The allegation of poorly operated and maintained of the WWTP was substantiated during the investigation. The allegation of an SSO at a lift station was not substantiated during the investigation.

As required, a letter and copy of the investigation report was mailed to both the respondent and the complainant.

NOV Date	06/28/2024	Method	WRITTEN
OUTSTANDING ALLEGED VIOLATION(S)			
ASSOCIATED TO A NOTICE OF VIOLATION			

Track Number: 883280 Compliance Due Date: 07/29/2024
Violation Start Date: 4/24/2024

30 TAC Chapter 305.125(1)
30 TAC Chapter 305.125(5)

EPA ID TX0141691, TX0141691
Operational Requirements No. 1.

PERMIT WQ0014522002, WQ0014522002
Operational Requirements No. 1.

Alleged Violation:

Investigation: 1994173 Comment Date: 06/13/2024

Failure to properly operate and maintain the facility. Specifically, the clarifier's weirs were uneven, and short circuiting was observed. A clarifier effluent weir must have even flow throughout weirs to avoid short

circuit.

Recommended Corrective Action: Submit documentation to the TCEQ DFW Region Office showing that the clarifier's weirs have been fixed.

Track Number: 883281 **Compliance Due Date:** 07/29/2024
Violation Start Date: 4/24/2024

30 TAC Chapter 305.125(1)
30 TAC Chapter 305.125(5)

EPA ID TX0141691, TX0141691
Operational Requirements No. 1.

PERMIT WQ0014522002, WQ0014522002
Operational Requirements No. 1.

Alleged Violation:

Investigation: 1994173 **Comment Date:** 06/13/2024
Failure to properly operate and maintain the facility. Specifically, moderate algal growth and few floating solids were observed in the clarifier.

Recommended Corrective Action: Submit to the TCEQ DFW Region Office compliance documentation indicating items listed in the violation description has been corrected.

Track Number: 883282 **Compliance Due Date:** 07/29/2024
Violation Start Date: 4/24/2024

30 TAC Chapter 305.125(1)
30 TAC Chapter 305.125(5)

PERMIT WQ0014522002, WQ0014522002
Operational Requirements No. 1.

EPA ID TX0141691, TX0141691
Operational Requirements No. 1.

Alleged Violation:

Investigation: 1994173 **Comment Date:** 06/13/2024
Failure to properly maintain the collection system. Specifically, the wet well at the Red Bird Lift Station has excessive amount of solids.

Recommended Corrective Action: Submit documentation to the TCEQ DFW Region Office indicating that solids have been removed from the lift station.

ALLEGED VIOLATION(S) NOTED AND RESOLVED
ASSOCIATED TO A NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Track Number: 883283 **Resolution Status Date:** 6/19/2024
Violation Start Date: 4/24/2024 **Violation End Date:** 6/11/2024

30 TAC Chapter 305.125(1)

30 TAC Chapter 305.125(5)**PERMIT WQ0014522002, WQ0014522002**

Operational Requirements No. 1.

EPA ID TX0141691, TX0141691

Operational Requirements No. 1.

Alleged Violation:**Investigation: 1994173**

Comment Date: 06/13/2024

Failure to properly maintain the collection system. Specifically, the required vent at the Red Bird Lift Station was broken.

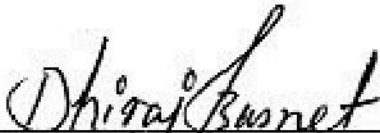
Recommended Corrective Action: Submit documentation to the TCEQ DFW Region Office indicating that the vent has been fixed.**Resolution:** The regulated entity submitted documentation to the TCEQ DFW Region Office indicating that the vent at the Red Bird Lift Station has been fixed.**Additional Comments****Description**

Item 5

Additional Comments

The unused aeration basins at the WWTP contained rainwater and were fully covered by duckweed. The regulated entity submitted photographic documentation to the TCEQ DFW Region Office on June 11, 2024, indicating that the duck weed has been removed from the aeration basins.

Signed


Environmental InvestigatorDate 06/20/2024

Signed


SupervisorDate 06/20/2024**Attachments: (in order of final report submittal)**☐ Enforcement Action Request (EAR)☒ Letter to Facility (specify type): NOV Letter☐ Investigation Report☐ Sample Analysis Results☐ Manifests☐ Notice of Registration☐ Maps, Plans, Sketches☒ Photographs☒ Correspondence from the facility☒ Other (specify):Exit Interview form

List of Attached files

HawkCove_Photo.pdf

TCEQ Exit Interview Signed.pdf