

ADEM Water Division Statement
**Tallassee Sewer Stabilization Pond and Mechanical Treatment Plant Public
Hearing**

March 16, 2021

My name is Sandra Lee. I am an Environmental Engineering Specialist, Senior in the Municipal Section within the Industrial and Municipal Branch of ADEM's Water Division. The Municipal Section administers the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System or NPDES program for municipal sources. The NPDES program addresses water pollution by regulating point sources that discharge pollutants into waters of the State. The Water Division is also represented this evening by Mrs. Emily Anderson who is Chief of the Municipal Section and Mrs. Daphne Lutz who is Chief of the Industrial and Municipal Branch.

The Department exercises authority under the Alabama Water Pollution Control Act and the Alabama Environmental Management Act, to administer and enforce water pollution control and water quality regulations. The Department also has the authority to implement federal water pollution control regulations.

This Hearing concerns the proposed draft NPDES permit reissuance for the City of Tallassee's Tallassee Sewer Stabilization Pond and Mechanical Treatment Plant located in Tallassee, Alabama. The draft NPDES permit, as public noticed, would regulate the discharge of treated wastewater to the Tallapoosa River.

The Tallapoosa River has designated use classifications of Public Water Supply and Fish & Wildlife.

The City of Tallassee submitted an NPDES permit application for the reissuance of a permit to discharge treated domestic and industrial wastewater to the Tallapoosa River.

ADEM has reviewed the application and the supporting information and has drafted an NPDES permit regulating the discharge of treated wastewater from the Tallassee Sewer Stabilization Pond's current lagoon treatment system and proposed mechanical treatment plant.

The Tallassee Sewer Stabilization Pond is currently a 1.4 million gallons per day (MGD) 2-Cell Aerated Lagoon System with Chlorine disinfection. The City of Tallassee has proposed an upgrade to a 2.4 MGD Mechanical Treatment Plant which would be constructed adjacent to the existing lagoon. The proposed Mechanical Treatment Plant would consist of a headworks structure for screening and grit removal, wet weather equalization to the existing lagoon Cell 1, Sequencing Batch Reactor Units, an Equalization Basin, and UV Disinfection. The draft permit includes requirements to account for the current system as well as the proposed upgraded system.

The terms and conditions of the draft permit have been developed by ADEM in accordance with applicable state and federal regulations designed to be protective of human health and the environment.

The following are examples of requirements in the draft permit: The facility will be required to meet conventional secondary treatment or equivalent to secondary treatment performance limits for Total Suspended Solids (TSS), TSS Percent Removal, 5 Day Carbonaceous Biochemical Oxygen Demand (CBOD₅), and CBOD₅ Percent Removal. This level of treatment was determined by ADEM to be protective of the Fish & Wildlife and Public Water Supply use classifications of the receiving stream. Ammonia-Nitrogen, Total Residual Chlorine and E. Coli limits are also imposed for the protection of water quality. Monthly monitoring is required for the nutrient related parameters Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen, Total Nitrite plus Nitrate-Nitrogen, and Total Phosphorus.

The facility will be required to perform annual toxicity testing for the 1.4 MGD Lagoon and quarterly toxicity testing for the 2.4 MGD Mechanical Plant.

The permitted hydraulic capacity of the facility in the draft permit includes two tiers, 1.4 MGD and 2.4 MGD. The Department developed the draft permit limits based on a conservative approach, using the full design flows or capacities of the facility and the long-term historic seven-day, 10-year low flow of the receiving stream.

In conclusion, ADEM has made a preliminary determination that the draft NPDES permit for the Tallassee Sewer Stabilization Pond and upgraded Mechanical Treatment Plant is consistent with all applicable water pollution control laws and regulations. However, we are receptive to comments of technical substance or regulatory merit that could affect ADEM's permit decision. This preliminary permit determination will be reconsidered after all comments are received and reviewed.

Thank You.