

ONIS "TREY" GLENN, III
DIRECTOR



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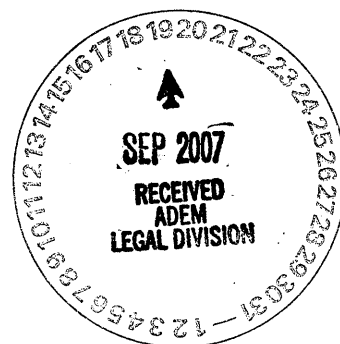
BOB RILEY
GOVERNOR

September 19, 2007

CERTIFIED MAIL #7005 1820 0003 1875 6726
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Honorable Harold Davis
Mayor, Town of Gordo
Post Office Box 348
Gordo, AL 35466

Re: Gordo WWTP
NPDES Permit No. AL0061981
Pickens County
Consent Order No. 07-171-CWP



Dear Mayor Davis:

Please find enclosed ADEM Consent Order No. 07-171-CWP which requires you to take certain actions in regard to alleged violations of the Alabama Water Pollution Control Act. This Consent Order has been issued with the consent of both the Town of Gordo and the Department. Please note that the assessed civil penalty is due within 45 days.

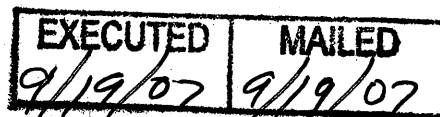
If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. James W. Grassiano at (334) 271-7801.

Sincerely,

James E. McIndoe, Chief
Water Division

Enclosure

cc: Olivia Rowell, ADEM, Office of General Counsel
Glenda Dean, ADEM Water Division
ADEM – Public Affairs Office
Cesar Zapata, EPA



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

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

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

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

**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

IN THE MATTER OF:

Town of Gordo

Gordo WWTP

Gordo (Pickens County), AL

NPDES Permit No. AL0061981

Consent Order No: 07-171-CWP

PREAMBLE

This Special Order by Consent is made and entered into by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (hereinafter "the Department") and the Town of Gordo (hereinafter the "Permittee") pursuant to the provisions of the Alabama Environmental Management Act, Ala. Code §§ 22-22A-1 to 22-22A-16 (2006 Rplc. Vol.), the Alabama Water Pollution Control Act, Ala. Code §§ 22-22-1 to 22-22-14 (2006 Rplc. Vol.), and the regulations promulgated pursuant thereto, and § 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1342.

STIPULATIONS

1. The Permittee operates a wastewater treatment facility known as the Gordo WWTP located on U. S. Highway 82 in Gordo, Pickens County, Alabama. The

wastewater treatment facility discharges pollutants from a point source into Little Bear Creek, a water of the state.

2. The Department is a duly constituted department of the State of Alabama pursuant to Ala. Code §§ 22-22A-1 through 22-22A-16 (2006 Rplc.Vol.).

3. Pursuant to Ala. Code § 22-22A-4(n) (2006 Rplc. Vol.), 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. §§ 1251 to 1387. In addition, the Department is authorized to administer and enforce the provisions of the Alabama Water Pollution Control Act, Ala. Code §§ 22-22-1 through 22-22-14 (2006 Rplc. Vol.).

4. On June 21, 2002, the Department issued the Permittee's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (hereinafter "NPDES") Permit Number AL0061981 (hereinafter "the Permit") to the Permittee, establishing limits on the discharge of pollutants into Little Bear Creek from a point source, designated therein as outfall number 0011. 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 DMRs submitted to the Department by the Permittee indicate that the Permittee has discharged pollutants from such point source into the aforementioned Little Bear 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 existing NPDES Permit has an expiration date of October 31, 2007. The Permittee applied for re-issuance in a timely manner (on April 26, 2007) and hence the expiration date will be administratively extended, should permit re-issuance not occur by October 31, 2007.

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

8. 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 alleged violations. The Department has determined that the terms contemplated in this Consent Order are in the best interests of the citizens of Alabama.

CONTENTIONS

9. Pursuant to Ala. Code § 22-22A-5(18)c (2006 Rplc. Vol.), 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; the Permittee'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 constitute a separate violation. In arriving at this civil penalty, the Department has considered the following:

A. SERIOUSNESS OF THE VIOLATION: Violations consisted of exceeding weekly average and/or monthly average permit limitations for total ammonia-nitrogen, fecal coliform, five-day biochemical oxygen demand, five-day biochemical oxygen demand percent removal, total suspended solids, and total suspended solids percent removal. The violations also included exceeding the daily maximum permit limit for fecal coliform and total residual chlorine. Also, the minimum dissolved oxygen limit was violated. The Department has no evidence of irreparable harm to the environment or any threat to the health and safety of the public as a result of these violations.

B. THE STANDARD OF CARE: The Permittee failed to properly maintain the wastewater treatment facility to ensure compliance with established permit limits.

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 requirements.

D. EFFORTS TO MINIMIZE OR MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF THE VIOLATION UPON THE ENVIRONMENT: There are no known environmental effects as a result of the violations.

E. HISTORY OF PREVIOUS VIOLATIONS: The Permittee has had prior violations similar to those referenced in Attachment 1. The Department issued a Notice of Violation (hereinafter "NOV") to the Permittee on August 21, 2006 addressing the violations referenced herein through June 2006. Warning letters had been issued on October 27, 2006 and on May 2, 2007. However, the prior enforcement has been unsuccessful at resolving ongoing permit violations.

F. THE ABILITY TO PAY: Based on available information, the Department believes that the Permittee has a limited ability to pay a 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 Ala. Code § 22-22A-5(18)c (2006 Rplc. Vol.), 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 \$7,600.00 in settlement of the violations alleged herein within forty-five days from the effective date of this Consent Order. Failure to pay the civil penalty within forty-five 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 to the Department, not later than 180 days after the effective date of this Consent Order, an Engineering Report that includes a schedule for implementation (i.e., a Compliance Plan) and that identifies the potential causes of noncompliance. The report must summarize the Permittee's investigation of the changes necessary for the Permittee to implement to achieve compliance with NPDES Permit Number AL0061981. At a minimum, the Permittee shall consider each of the following in making its determination: 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 report is not sufficient to accomplish compliance with the NPDES permit, then the Permittee shall modify the report so that it does accomplish compliance. Modifications to the Engineering Report, if required, shall be submitted to ADEM no later than thirty days after receipt of the Department's comments. The Permittee agrees to complete implementation of the recommendations made in the Engineering Report within 730 days after the effective date of this Consent Order.

D. The Permittee agrees to prepare and submit Semi-Annual Progress Reports to the Department describing in detail the Permittee's progress towards achieving compliance with items presented in the Compliance Plan beginning six months after the effective date of this Consent Order and continuing every six months thereafter that the Permittee's performance of the obligations under this Consent Order remain incomplete. In addition, not later than fourteen days following each applicable due date that is contained in this Consent Order, the Permittee shall submit a written notice of compliance with the requirements stated herein. If the Permittee is unable to submit a notice of compliance with the applicable requirement, the Permittee shall instead file a notice of noncompliance, stating the cause of noncompliance, the corrective action taken, and the Permittee's ability to comply with any remaining requirements of this Consent Order.

E. No later than 730 days after the date of entry of this Consent Order, the Permittee agrees to comply with the total ammonia-nitrogen, fecal coliform, five-day biochemical oxygen demand, five-day biochemical oxygen demand percent removal, total suspended solids, total suspended solids percent removal, total residual chlorine, and

dissolved oxygen limitations of NPDES Permit Number AL0061981. The Permittee further agrees to comply with all other terms, conditions, and limitations of its NPDES Permit immediately upon the effective date of this Consent Order.

F. The Permittee agrees that, after the effective date of this Consent Order, for every violation of 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 AL0061981, the Permittee shall pay to the Department the sum of \$100.00 for each and every daily maximum, daily minimum, weekly average, and minimum percent removal violation and \$200.00 for each and every monthly average violation.

G. The Permittee agrees that, after the effective date of this Consent Order, stipulated penalties shall apply for each day it fails to meet any of the milestone dates or to satisfy any of the requirements set forth in or established by paragraphs A, C, D and E contained herein. The stipulated civil penalties for failure to meet any and all milestones or any requirement date, except for *Force Majeure* Acts, shall be as follows:

<u>Period of Noncompliance</u>	<u>Penalty per Day per Violation</u>
1st to 30th day	\$ 100.00
31st to 60th day	\$ 200.00
After 60 days	\$ 300.00

If the Permittee fails to meet any milestone or any assigned date ninety days after the required dates found in paragraphs A, C, D and E, then the Department reserves the right to file a new action against the Permittee.

H. The parties agree that the cumulative stipulated penalties described in

paragraph G above shall under no circumstances exceed \$24,000.00. Once stipulated penalties of \$24,000.00 are due to the Department and violations continue to occur, or, should violations continue to occur after 730 days after the effective date of this Consent Order or as stipulated in paragraph G, above, then the Department shall be free to issue additional orders or to 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.

I. 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.

J. 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.

K. 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.

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

M. 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 that are beyond the reasonable control of the Permittee, including its contractors and consultants, that could not be overcome by due diligence (i.e., causes that 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 that 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 ten 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.

N. 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.

O. 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.

P. 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.

Q. 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 days within which to comment on the Consent Order.

R. 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.

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

T. 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.

TOWN OF GORDO

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

By: <u>Harold Davis</u>	By: <u>[Signature]</u>
Its: <u>Mayer</u>	Its: <u>Director</u>
Date: <u>7-28-07</u>	Date: <u>9-19-07</u>

Attachment 1

AL0061981 GORDO WWTP

DMR Value Limit Units Averaging Time
Outfall ID: 0011

October, 2005

<u>BOD5 SUMMER</u>				
1	17.8	8	mg/l	Monthly Average
2	70.2	12	mg/l	Weekly Average
<u>FECAL COLIFORM WINTER</u>				
3	53.9	27.1	lbs/day	Weekly Average
<u>FECAL COLIFORM WINTER</u>				
4	30700	1000	#/100 ml	Monthly Geo Mean
5	76000	2000	#/100 ml	Daily Maximum
<u>NITROGEN AMMONIA TOTAL N</u>				
6	8.5	1.8	mg/l	Monthly Average
7	22.3	2.7	mg/l	Weekly Average
8	6.31	4.1	lbs/day	Monthly Average
9	17.1	6.1	lbs/day	Weekly Average
<u>SOLIDS SUSP PERCENT</u>				
10	79.9	85	Percent	Monthly Average
<u>TSS</u>				
11	103	45	mg/l	Weekly Average

November, 2005

<u>BOD5 SUMMER</u>				
12	11.1	8	mg/l	Monthly Average
13	33.2	12	mg/l	Weekly Average
<u>FECAL COLIFORM WINTER</u>				
14	5280	1000	#/100 ml	Monthly Geo Mean
15	34000	2000	#/100 ml	Daily Maximum
<u>NITROGEN AMMONIA TOTAL N</u>				
16	4.25	2.7	mg/l	Weekly Average
<u>TSS</u>				
17	48	45	mg/l	Weekly Average

December, 2005

<u>FECAL COLIFORM WINTER</u>				
18	2080	1000	#/100 ml	Monthly Geo Mean
19	6400	2000	#/100 ml	Daily Maximum

January, 2006

<u>TSS</u>				
20	72	45	mg/l	Weekly Average

February, 2006

<u>BOD5 WINTER</u>				
21	42.3	37.5	mg/l	Weekly Average
<u>FECAL COLIFORM WINTER</u>				
22	6160	1000	#/100 ml	Monthly Geo Mean
23	45000	2000	#/100 ml	Daily Maximum
<u>TSS</u>				
24	115	45	mg/l	Weekly Average

April, 2006

CHLORINE TOTAL RESIDUAL

25	9	0.029	mg/l	Daily Maximum
<u>FECAL COLIFORM WINTER</u>				

26	11600	2000	#/100 ml	Daily Maximum
<u>BOD 5-DAY PERCENT</u>				

27	46	85	Percent	Monthly Average
<u>BOD5 SUMMER</u>				

28	64.4	8	mg/l	Monthly Average
29	332	12	mg/l	Weekly Average

30	48.7	18	lbs/day	Monthly Average
31	244	27.1	lbs/day	Weekly Average

<u>FECAL COLIFORM WINTER</u>				
32	78000	2000	#/100 ml	Daily Maximum

<u>NITROGEN AMMONIA TOTAL N</u>				
33	7.15	1.8	mg/l	Monthly Average

34	13.8	2.7	mg/l	Weekly Average
35	5.15	4.1	lbs/day	Monthly Average

36	9.32	6.1	lbs/day	Weekly Average
<u>SOLIDS SUSP PERCENT</u>				

37	30.8	85	Percent	Monthly Average
<u>TSS</u>				

38	90	30	mg/l	Monthly Average
39	426	45	mg/l	Weekly Average

40	71	67.8	lbs/day	Monthly Average
41	352	101	lbs/day	Weekly Average

June, 2006

<u>FECAL COLIFORM SUMMER</u>				
42	579	200	#/100 ml	Monthly Geo Mean
43	28000	2000	#/100 ml	Daily Maximum

<u>NITROGEN AMMONIA TOTAL N</u>				
44	8.92	1.8	mg/l	Monthly Average

45	18.2	2.7	mg/l	Weekly Average
46	6.56	4.1	lbs/day	Monthly Average

47	13.5	6.1	lbs/day	Weekly Average
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July, 2006

<u>BOD5 SUMMER</u>				
48	10.4	8	mg/l	Monthly Average

49	39.1	12	mg/l	Weekly Average
50	27.7	27.1	lbs/day	Weekly Average

<u>NITROGEN AMMONIA TOTAL N</u>				
51	5.95	1.8	mg/l	Monthly Average

52	12.3	2.7	mg/l	Weekly Average
53	8.81	6.1	lbs/day	Weekly Average

September, 2006

<u>BOD5 SUMMER</u>				
54	17.3	12	mg/l	Weekly Average

<u>TSS</u>				
55	72	45	mg/l	Weekly Average

	DMR Value	Limit	Units	Averaging Time
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October, 2006

BOD5 SUMMER

56	17.3	12	mg/l	Weekly Average
57	59.8	27.1	lbs/day	Weekly Average
<u>NITROGEN AMMONIA TOTAL N</u>				
58	1.9	1.8	mg/l	Monthly Average
59	6.84	2.7	mg/l	Weekly Average
60	7.54	6.1	lbs/day	Weekly Average

February, 2007

FECAL COLIFORM WINTER

61	1810	1000	#/100 ml	Monthly Geo Mean
62	6600	2000	#/100 ml	Daily Maximum

NITROGEN AMMONIA TOTAL N

63	12	10	mg/l	Monthly Average
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March, 2007

FECAL COLIFORM WINTER

64	27000	2000	#/100 ml	Daily Maximum
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NITROGEN AMMONIA TOTAL N

65	11.7	10	mg/l	Monthly Average
66	15.4	15	mg/l	Weekly Average

TSS

67	60	45	mg/l	Weekly Average
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