



21-00055

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES
William R. Snodgrass - Tennessee Tower
312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, 11th Floor
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-1102

December 2, 2021

Ms. Lisa S. Thomas
Owner
Shiloh Falls Utilities, Inc.
e-copy: lisa.thomas@sfdcares.com
450 Church Street
Savannah, TN 38372

Electronically Filed in TPUC Docket
Room on December 13, 2021 at 1:50 p.m.

Subject: **Draft of State Operating Permit No. SOP-94011**
Shiloh Falls Utilities, Inc.
Pickwick Dam, Hardin County, Tennessee

Dear Ms. Thomas:

Enclosed please find one copy of the draft state operating permit, which the Division of Water Resources (the division) proposes to issue. The issuance of this permit is contingent upon your meeting all of the requirements of the Tennessee Water Quality Control Act and the rules and regulations of the Tennessee Water Quality, Oil and Gas Board.

If you disagree with the provisions and requirements contained in the draft permit, you have thirty (30) days from the date of this correspondence to notify the division of your objections. If your objections cannot be resolved, you may appeal the issuance of this permit. This appeal should be filed in accordance with Section 69-3-110, Tennessee Code Annotated.

If you have questions, please contact the Jackson Environmental Field Office at 1-888-891-TDEC; or, at this office, please contact Mr. John Newberry at (615) 532-7743 or by E-mail at John.Newberry@tn.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brad Harris".

Brad Harris, P.E.
Manager, Land-Based Systems

Enclosure

cc: Permit File
Jackson Environmental Field Office
Ms. Michelle Mairs, Deputy Director, Utilities Division, Tennessee Regulatory Authority, michelle.mairs@tn.gov

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Permit No. SOP-94011

PERMIT
For the operation of Wastewater Treatment Facilities

In accordance with the provision of Tennessee Code Annotated section 69-3-108 and Regulations promulgated pursuant thereto:

PERMISSION IS HEREBY GRANTED TO

Shiloh Falls Utilities, Inc.
Pickwick Dam, Hardin County, Tennessee

FOR THE OPERATION OF

Collection system, lagoon, UV disinfection and fenced spray irrigation system located at latitude 35.030556 and longitude -88.229167 in Hardin County, Tennessee to serve approximately 259 homes in the Shiloh Falls Utilities, Inc, Pickwick Dam. The design capacity of the system is .055 MGD.

This permit is issued as a result of the application filed on August 23, 2016, in the office of the Tennessee Division of Water Resources and in conformity with approved plans, specifications and other data submitted to the Department in support of the above application, all of which are filed with and considered as a part of this permit, together with the following named conditions and requirements.

This permit shall become effective on:

This permit shall expire on:

Issuance date:

for Jennifer Dodd
Director

A. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The treatment system shall be monitored by the permittee as specified below:

<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Sample Type</u>	<u>Daily Maximum</u>	<u>Monthly Average</u>	<u>Measurement Frequency</u>
Flow Influent*	Totalizer			Daily
Flow Effluent*	Totalizer			Daily
BOD ₅ , Effluent	Grab	45 mg/l	N/A	Once/Quarter
BOD ₅ , Influent	Grab	Report		**
Total Suspended Solids, Influent	Grab	Report		**
Ammonia as N, Effluent	Grab	Report	N/A	Once /Quarter
<i>E. Coli</i> , Effluent	Grab	941 colonies/100 ml	N/A	Once /Quarter

* Report average daily flow for each calendar month.

Sampling requirements in the table above apply to effluent being discharged to the spray irrigation plots.

This permit allows the operation of a wastewater spray irrigation system. There shall be no discharge of wastewater to any surface stream or any location where it is likely to enter surface waters. There shall be no discharge of wastewater to any open throat sinkhole. In addition, the spray irrigation system shall be operated in a manner preventing the creation of a health hazard or a nuisance.

Instances of ponding or pooling within the spray dispersal area not associated with a recent rainfall event shall be promptly investigated and noted on the Monthly Operations Report. The report shall include details regarding location(s), determined cause(s), the actions taken to eliminate the ponding, and the date the corrective actions were made. Ponding resulting in the discharge of treated wastewater into the Waters of the State or to locations where it is likely to move to Waters of the State shall be considered a violation of your State Operating Permit.

All spray fields shall be fenced sufficiently to prevent or impede unauthorized entry as well as to protect the facility from vandalism. Fencing shall be a minimum of four feet in height. Fencing shall be constructed of durable materials. Gates shall be designed and constructed in a manner to prevent or impede unauthorized entry. All designs are subject to division approval. Fence shall be installed prior to beginning of operation.

The permittee must disinfect the wastewater in order to meet the above *E. Coli* limit.

All spray nozzles shall be configured to provide optimum utilization of all approved spray fields.

The site shall be inspected by the certified operator or his/her designee, at a minimum, once per fourteen days (default) OR in accordance with an operating and maintenance inspection schedule in the permit administrative file record. The default inspection frequency will apply if an operating and maintenance inspection schedule is not submitted to be a part of the permit administrative file record. The operating and maintenance inspection schedule shall at a minimum evaluate the following via onsite visits or telemetry monitoring or a combination of the two:

- the condition of the treatment facility security controls (doors, fencing, gates, etc.),
- the condition of the spray area security controls (doors, fencing, gates, etc.),
- the condition of the site signage,
- the operational status of the mechanical parts of the treatment system (pumps, filters, telemetry equipment, etc.)
- the condition of the UV bulbs (if applicable)

Submission of the schedule, or revisions to the schedule, may be submitted to the division electronically. The schedule shall be submitted on or before the effective date of the permit. The permittee is responsible for maintaining evidence that the schedule, or revisions, have been submitted to the division.

B. MONITORING PROCEDURES

1. Representative Sampling

Samples and measurements taken in compliance with the monitoring requirements specified above shall be representative of the volume and nature of the monitored discharge, and shall be taken at the following location(s):

Effluent to spray irrigation plots.

2. Test Procedures

Unless otherwise noted in the permit, all pollutant parameters shall be determined according to methods prescribed in Title 40, CFR, Part 136.

C. DEFINITIONS

The "daily maximum concentration" is a limitation on the average concentration, in milligrams per liter, of the discharge during any calendar day.

The "**monthly average concentration**", other than for *E. coli* bacteria, is the arithmetic mean of all the composite or grab samples collected in a one-calendar month period.

A "grab sample" is a single influent or effluent sample collected at a particular time.

For the purpose of this permit, "*continuous monitoring*" means collection of samples using a probe and a recorder with at least one data point per dosing cycle.

A "quarter" is defined as any one of the following three-month periods: January 1 through March 31, April 1 through June 30, July 1 through September 30, and/or October 1 through December 31.

D. REPORTING

1. Monitoring Results

Monitoring results shall be recorded monthly OR in accordance with the operating and maintenance inspection schedule in the permit administrative file record and submitted quarterly. The quarterly report shall detail the following:

Submittals shall be postmarked no later than 15 days after the completion of the reporting period. A copy should be retained for the permittee's files. Operation reports and any communication regarding compliance with the conditions of this permit must be sent to:

Division of Water Resources
Jackson Environmental Field Office
1625 Hollywood Drive
Jackson, TN 38305

The first operation report is due on the 15th of the month following the quarter containing the permit effective date.

2. Additional Monitoring by Permittee

If the permittee monitors any pollutant at the location(s) designated herein more frequently than required by this permit, using approved analytical methods as specified in 0400-40-05-.07(2)(h)2, the results of such monitoring shall be included in the calculation and reporting of the values required in the Quarterly Operation Report. Such increased frequency shall also be indicated.

3. Falsifying Reports

Knowingly making any false statement on any report required by this permit may result in the imposition of criminal penalties as provided for in Section 69-3-115 of the Tennessee Water Quality Control Act.

4. Signatory Requirement

All reports or information submitted to the commissioner shall be signed and certified by the persons identified in Rules 0400-40-05-.05(6)(a-c).

E. SCHEDULE OF COMPLIANCE

Full operational level shall be attained after the construction of the treatment system is complete and the treatment system is placed into operation.

PART II

A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Duty to Reapply

The permittee is not authorized to discharge after the expiration date of this permit. In order to receive authorization to discharge beyond the expiration date, the permittee shall submit such information and forms as are required to the Director of Water Resources (the "Director") no later than 180 days prior to the expiration date.

2. Right of Entry

The permittee shall allow the Director, or authorized representatives, upon the notification of permittee and presentation of credentials:

a. To enter upon the permittee's premises where an effluent source is located or where records are required to be kept under the terms and conditions of this permit, and at reasonable times to copy these records;

b. To inspect at reasonable times any monitoring equipment or method or any collection, treatment, pollution management, or discharge facilities required under this permit; and

c. To sample at reasonable times any discharge of pollutants.

3. Availability of Reports

All reports prepared in accordance with the terms of this permit shall be available for public inspection at the offices of the Division of Water Resources.

4. Proper Operation and Maintenance

The permittee shall at all times properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems (and related appurtenances) for collection and treatment which are installed or used by the permittee to achieve compliance with the terms and conditions of this permit. Proper operation and maintenance also includes adequate laboratory and process controls and appropriate quality

assurance procedures. This provision requires the operation of backup or auxiliary facilities or similar systems which are installed by a permittee only when the operation is necessary to achieve compliance with the conditions of the permit. Backup continuous pH and flow monitoring equipment are not required.

The monitoring frequency stated in this permit shall not be construed as specifying a minimum level of operator attention to the facility. It is anticipated that visits to the treatment facility by the operator will occur at intervals frequent enough to assure proper operation and maintenance, but in no case less than one visit every fourteen days OR in accordance with an operating and maintenance inspection schedule in the permit administrative file record. If monitoring reports, division's inspection reports, or other information indicates a problem with the facility, the permittee may be subject to enforcement action and/or the permit may be modified to include increased parameter monitoring, increased monitoring frequency or other requirements as deemed necessary by the division to correct the problem. The permittee shall ensure that the certified operator is in charge of the facility and observes the operation of the system frequently enough to ensure its proper operation and maintenance regardless of the monitoring frequency stated in the permit

Dilution water shall not be added to comply with effluent requirements.

The spray dispersal area shall not be used for vehicular traffic or vehicular parking. Dozers, trucks, tractors, and other heavy vehicles shall not be allowed to run over the spray dispersal area lines or other parts of the system.

5. Property Rights

The issuance of this permit does not convey any property rights in either real or personal property, or any exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize any injury to private property or any invasion of personal rights, nor any infringement of Federal, State, or local laws or regulations.

6. Severability

The provisions of this permit are severable. If any provision of this permit due to any circumstance, is held invalid, then the application of such provision to other circumstances and to the remainder of this permit shall not be affected thereby.

7. Other Information

If the permittee becomes aware that he failed to submit any relevant facts in a permit application, or submitted incorrect information in a permit application or in any report to the Director, then he shall promptly submit such facts or information.

B. CHANGES AFFECTING THE PERMIT

1. Planned Changes

The permittee shall give notice to the Director as soon as possible of any planned physical alterations or additions to the permitted facility.

2. Permit Modification, Revocation, or Termination

a. This permit may be modified, revoked and reissued, or terminated for cause as described in section 69-3-108 (h) The Tennessee Water Quality Control Act as amended.

b. The permittee shall furnish to the Director, within a reasonable time, any information which the Director may request to determine whether cause exists for modifying, revoking and reissuing, or terminating this permit, or to determine compliance with this permit. The permittee shall also furnish to the Director, upon request, copies of records required to be kept by this permit.

3. Change of Ownership

This permit may be transferred to another person by the permittee if:

a. The permittee notifies the Director of the proposed transfer at least 30 days in advance of the proposed transfer date;

b. The notice includes a written agreement between the existing and new permittees containing a specified date for transfer of permit responsibility, coverage, and liability between them; and

c. The Director, within 30 days, does not notify the current permittee and the new permittee of his intent to modify, revoke or reissue, or terminate the permit and to require that a new application be filed rather than agreeing to the transfer of the permit.

4. Change of Mailing Address

The permittee shall promptly provide to the Director written notice of any change of mailing address. In the absence of such notice the original address of the permittee will be assumed to be correct.

C. NONCOMPLIANCE

1. Effect of Noncompliance

Any permit noncompliance constitutes a violation of applicable State laws and is grounds for enforcement action, permit termination, permit modification, or denial of permit reissuance.

2. Reporting of Noncompliance

a. 24-Hour Reporting

In the case of any noncompliance which could cause a threat to public drinking supplies, or any other discharge which could constitute a threat to human health or the environment, the required notice of non-compliance shall be provided to the appropriate Division Environmental Field Office within 24 hours from the time the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances. (The environmental field office should be contacted for names and phone numbers of emergency response personnel.)

A written submission must be provided within five days of the time the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances unless this requirement is waived by the Director on a case-by-case basis. The permittee shall provide the Director with the following information:

- i. A description of the discharge and cause of noncompliance;
- ii. The period of noncompliance, including exact dates and times or, if not corrected, the anticipated time the noncompliance is expected to continue; and
- iii. The steps being taken to reduce, eliminate, and prevent recurrence of the non complying discharge.

b. Scheduled Reporting

For instances of noncompliance which are not reported under subparagraph 2.a. above, the permittee shall report the noncompliance on the Quarterly Operation Report. The report shall contain all information concerning the steps taken, or planned, to reduce, eliminate, and prevent recurrence of the violation and the anticipated time the violation is expected to continue.

3. Overflow

a. "**Overflow**" means the unintended discharge to land or waters of Tennessee of wastes from any portion of the collection, transmission, or treatment system other than through permitted outfalls.

b. Overflows are prohibited.

c. The permittee shall operate the collection system so as to avoid overflows. No new or additional flows shall be added upstream of any point in the collection system, which experiences chronic overflows (greater than 5 events per year) or would otherwise overload any portion of the system.

d. Unless there is specific enforcement action to the contrary, the permittee is relieved of this requirement after: 1) an authorized representative of the Commissioner of the Department of Environment and Conservation has approved an engineering report and construction plans and specifications prepared in accordance with accepted engineering practices for correction of the problem; 2) the correction work is underway; and 3) the cumulative, peak-

design, flows potentially added from new connections and line extensions upstream of any chronic overflow point are less than or proportional to the amount of inflow and infiltration removal documented upstream of that point. The inflow and infiltration reduction must be measured by the permittee using practices that are customary in the environmental engineering field and reported in an attachment to a Monthly Operating Report submitted to the local TDEC Environmental Field Office on a quarterly basis. The data measurement period shall be sufficient to account for seasonal rainfall patterns and seasonal groundwater table elevations.

e. In the event that more than 5 overflows have occurred from a single point in the collection system for reasons that may not warrant the self-imposed moratorium or completion of the actions identified in this paragraph, the permittee may request a meeting with the Division of Water Resources EFO staff to petition for a waiver based on mitigating evidence.

4. Upset

a. "**Upset**" means an exceptional incident in which there is unintentional and temporary noncompliance with technology-based effluent limitations because of factors beyond the reasonable control of the permittee. An upset does not include noncompliance to the extent caused by operational error, improperly designed treatment facilities, inadequate treatment facilities, lack of preventive maintenance, or careless or improper operation.

b. An upset shall constitute an affirmative defense to an action brought for noncompliance with such technology-based permit effluent limitations if the permittee demonstrates, through properly signed, contemporaneous operating logs, or other relevant evidence that:

- i. An upset occurred and that the permittee can identify the cause(s) of the upset;
- ii. The permitted facility was at the time being operated in a prudent and workman-like manner and in compliance with proper operation and maintenance procedures;
- iii. The permittee submitted information required under "Reporting of Noncompliance" within 24-hours of becoming aware of the upset (if this information is provided orally, a written submission must be provided within five days); and
- iv. The permittee complied with any remedial measures required under "Adverse Impact."

5. Adverse Impact

The permittee shall take all reasonable steps to minimize any adverse impact to the waters of Tennessee resulting from noncompliance with this permit, including such accelerated or additional monitoring as necessary to determine the nature and impact of the noncomplying discharge. It shall not be a defense for the permittee in an enforcement action that it would have been necessary to halt or reduce the permitted activity in order to maintain compliance with the conditions of this permit.

6. Bypass

a. **"Bypass"** is the intentional diversion of wastewater away from any portion of a treatment facility. "Severe property damage" means substantial physical damage to property, damage to the treatment facilities which would cause them to become inoperable, or substantial and permanent loss of natural resources which can reasonably be expected to occur in the absence of a bypass. Severe property damage does not mean economic loss caused by delays in production.

b. Bypasses are prohibited unless all of the following 3 conditions are met:

i. The bypass is unavoidable to prevent loss of life, personal injury, or severe property damage;

ii. There are no feasible alternatives to bypass, such as the construction and use of auxiliary treatment facilities, retention of untreated wastes, or maintenance during normal periods of equipment downtime. This condition is not satisfied if adequate back-up equipment should have been installed in the exercise of reasonable engineering judgment to prevent a bypass, which occurred during normal periods of equipment downtime or preventative maintenance;

iii. The permittee submits notice of an unanticipated bypass to the Division of Water Resources in the appropriate Environmental Field Office within 24 hours of becoming aware of the bypass (if this information is provided orally, a written submission must be provided within five days). When the need for the bypass is foreseeable, prior notification shall be submitted to the director, if possible, at least 10 days before the date of the bypass.

c. Bypasses not exceeding permit limitations are allowed **only** if the bypass is necessary for essential maintenance to assure efficient operation. All other bypasses are prohibited. Allowable bypasses not exceeding limitations are not subject to the reporting requirements of 6.b.iii, above.

7. Washout

a. For domestic wastewater plants only, a "washout" shall be defined as loss of Mixed Liquor Suspended Solids (MLSS) of 30.00% or more. This refers to the MLSS in the aeration basin(s) only. This does not include MLSS decrease due to solids wasting to the sludge disposal system. A washout can be caused by improper operation or from peak flows due to infiltration and inflow.

b. A washout is prohibited. If a washout occurs the permittee must report the incident to the Division of Water Resources in the appropriate Environmental Field Office within 24 hours by telephone. A written submission must be provided within five days. The washout must be noted on the discharge monitoring report. Each day of a washout is a separate violation.

D. LIABILITIES

1. Civil and Criminal Liability

Nothing in this permit shall be construed to relieve the permittee from civil or criminal penalties for noncompliance. Notwithstanding this permit, the permittee shall remain liable for any damages sustained by the State of Tennessee, including but not limited to fish kills and losses of aquatic life and/or wildlife, as a result of the discharge of wastewater to any surface or subsurface waters. Additionally, notwithstanding this Permit, it shall be the responsibility of the permittee to conduct its wastewater treatment and/or discharge activities in a manner such that public or private nuisances or health hazards will not be created.

2. Liability Under State Law

Nothing in this permit shall be construed to preclude the institution of any legal action or relieve the permittee from any responsibilities, liabilities, or penalties established pursuant to any applicable State law.

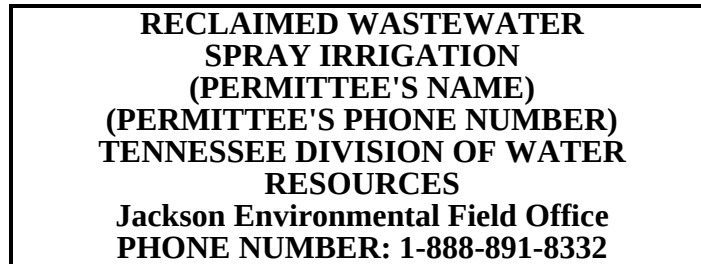
**PART III
OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

A. CERTIFIED OPERATOR

The waste treatment facilities shall be operated under the supervision of a Biological Natural System certified wastewater treatment operator and collection system shall be operated under the supervision of a the grade I certified collection system operator in accordance with the Water Environmental Health Act of 1984.

B. PLACEMENT OF SIGNS

The permittee shall place a sign at the entrance if the spray area is fenced or all reasonable approaches to the spray irrigation lot. The sign should be clearly visible to the public. The minimum sign size should be two feet by two feet (2' x 2') with one inch (1") letters. The sign should be made of durable material.



C. ADDITION OF WASTE LOADS

The permittee may not add wasteloads to the existing treatment system without the knowledge and approval of the division.

D. OWNERSHIP OF THE TREATMENT FACILITIES

a. The permittee shall own the treatment facilities (and the land upon which they are constructed) including the land to be utilized for spray or spray irrigation. A perpetual easement (properly recorded) may be accepted in lieu of ownership. Evidence of ownership of the treatment facility land application site(s) and/or a copy of the perpetual easement(s) must be furnished to the division for approval prior to construction of the wastewater collection and treatment system.

b. Where the treatment facility serves private homes, condominiums, apartments, retirement homes, nursing homes, trailer parks, or any other place where the individuals being served have property ownership, rental agreements, or other agreements that would prevent their being displaced in the event of abandonment or noncompliance of the sewerage system, ownership of the treatment facilities must be by a municipality, a public utility, a wastewater authority, or a privately owned public utility (having a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity from the Tennessee Regulatory Authority), or another public agency.