# REQUEST FOR REMISSION OF CIVIL PENALTY ASSESSMENT 

DWR Case Number: PC-2015-0008
Region: Wilmington County: Onslow
Assessed Entity: Horse Creek Farms Utilities Corporation

## CASE BACKGROUND AND ASSESSMENT

- 9/11/14
- 9/15/14
- $12 / 31 / 14$
- $3 / 18 / 15$

3/18/15

Horse Creek Farms is a housing development in Onslow County near Piney Green, NC. The Horse Creek Farms wastewater collection system is deemed permitted under 15A NCAC 02T .0403. Their permit number is WQCSD0063. On Sept. 11, 2014, DWR conducted a compliance evaluation inspection of the Horse Creek Farms collection system. Several items were noted as being out of compliance with the deemed permitted rules.

1) The map of the collection system was incomplete. It lacked the type of pipe installed, the date(s) the pipes were installed, the date(s) that sections of the system were lined and the capacity of the lift stations.
2) The right-of-way behind one pump station needed maintenance due to a number of trees growing in the right-of-way.
3) One of the two 4" force mains in lift station \#1 had a crack in the pipe resulting in air-hammering. Both of the force mains were in an advanced state of deterioration and needed to be replaced.
4) The two 4 " force mains in lift station \#2 were also corroded and in need of replacement.
5) No records were available that document the maintenance of the system, the implementation of a Fats, Oil and Grease program, or document required line cleaning.

DWR issued a Notice of Deficiency to Horse Creek Farms that described the non-compliant issues. A written response describing how and when the deficiencies would be addressed was requested within 30 days. Horse Creek Farms did not respond.

DWR issued a Notice of Violation and Intent to Assess Civil Penalty for failing to maintain the pump stations and the right-of-way easements as required by 15A NCAC 02 T .0403 . A written response was requested within 10 days if Horse Creek Farms wished to provide additional information, request technical assistance or discuss overall compliance. Horse Creek Farms did not respond.
DWR issued an Assessment of Civil Penalty in the amount of $\$ 2,276.01$. Penalties were assessed for failing to maintain the pump stations $(\$ 1,000)$. and failing to maintain the right-of-way easements $(\$ 1,000)$. Enforcement costs were $\$ 276.01$.

## REMISSIONREQUEST

- 4/23/15
- 6/2/15
- 6/15/15


## REQUESTFOR ORAL PRESENTATION

- Assessed Entity did not request an oral presentation before the Environmental Management Commission's Committee on Civil Penalty Remissions.
- Assessed Entity has not been assessed civil penalties for any previous violations.


## DWQRECOMMENDATION

- The Division of Water Quality opposes any remission or mitigation of the penalty and recommends that the Director's decision be upheld.


## North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Pat McCrory
Governor

John E. Skvarla, Ill
Secretary

September 15, 2014

CERTIFIED MAIL \# 70100290000308339076 RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Horse Creek Farms Utilities Corp.
Attn: Debby Crayton, President
PO Box 14046
New Bern, NC 28561-4046
Subject: NOTICE OF DEFICIENCY
Tracking No. NOD-2014-PC-0182
NPDES Compliance Evaluation Inspection
Permit No. NC0071706
Horse Creek Farms Collection System
Onslow County

## Dear Ms Crayton:

A Compliance Evaluation inspection of the Horse Creek Farms collections system was conducted by Joanne Steenhuis and Stephanie Garrett from this office on September 11, 2014. This inspection was to verify that the facility is operating in compliance with the conditions and limitations specified in NPDES Permit No. WQCSD0063. The findings and comments noted during this inspection are provided in the enclosed copy of the "Water Compliance Inspection Report".

The following deficient items or issues were noted during the inspection:

## Compliance Issues:

The map of the collection system was not complete. The following items need to be added: 1) the type of pipe installed, 2) the dates(s) the pipes were installed, 3) the dates sections of the system was lined, and 4) the capacity of the lift stations.

The ROW for the force mains need to be maintained to allow accessibility.
Lift station \#1 is missing a rail and the 4 inch force main pipes are very corroded. Lift station \#2 the 4 inch force main pipes are fairly corroded and the rail mount has come off the header or support beam.
There were no records available that documented: 1) the maintenance of the sewer lines, 2) that Fats, Oils and Grease education had been distributed at least twice in the past year and 3) that portions of the collection system had been cleaned in the past year

Remedial actions should have already been taken to correct these problems and prevent further occurrences in the future. The Division of Water Resources may pursue enforcement action for this and any additional violations of State law. To prevent further action, carefully review these deficiencies and address the causes of noncompliance to prevent the recurrence of similar situations.

Horse Creek Farms Utilities Corp.
Attn: Debby Crayton
WaCSDOD63
September 15, 20014
Page 2 of 2

## Required Response

This Office requests that you respond to this letter in writing within 30 calendar days of receipt of this Notice. Please address the deficiencies and include a timeline on when you plan to have these issued addressed.
In addition, you may wish to consider registering to use the Division's new e-DMR process for completion and submittal of monthly monitoring reports, for more information please visit our website at: http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wa/admin/bog/ipu/edmr

If you have any questions concerning this Notice of Deficiency or the enclosed inspection report, you may contact Joanne Steenhuis at the letterhead contact information or via email at Joanne.Steenhuis.@ncdenr.gov


Enclosure
cc: Michael Myers - Contract Operations Manager
Jeff Jarman - ORC - Electronic Copy
Wilmington Regional Office - Yellow File
MSC 1617 Central Files Basement

## Compliance Inspection Report



## (See attachment summary)

Inspection Summary:

Lift Station \# 1 has a crack in one of the 4 " force main pipes. You can hear the air-hammering effect from the air being sucked into the pipe. Both of the $4^{p}$ force main pipes are in an advanced state of deterioration and should be replaced soon. One of the rails had been removed from the wet well because it had apparently detached from the base. It should be replaced/re-installed.

Lift Station \#2 has a mount for the rails that has separated from the support beam. The tops of the rails are corroded and the rails look pretty rusty. The two 4"force main pipes are fairly corroded and should be replaced soon.
The ROW for the force main line behind the houses, does not look like it has been maintained.
Lift Station \#3 the tops of the rails are fairly corroded. The two 4" force main pipes look to be a little rusty, but not as corroded as the other two lift stations.

The ROW behind Lift station \#2 for the force main looks to be in need of maintenance. There seems to be a lot of trees within the easement area. Lamont Allen's inspection dated June, 7, 2012 noted that the right-of-wayleasements were to be accessible.

None of the lift stations have a quick connect for a portable generator. It is recommended that they be installed in the event of a power outage.
None of the lift stations have either SCADA or simple telemetry/auto dialer installed. It is recommended that one or the other is installed to notify the utility of potential spills.

There was no available documentation that the Public education Program for grease was disbused in the past year. Overall, all the lift stations require some type of maintenance to be done. In some cases, there are force main pipes be replaced and basic maintenance on the rails.

## Performance Standards

Is Public Education Program for grease established and documented？
What educational tools are used？
No documentation could be provided．
Is Sewer Use Ordinance／Legal Authority available？
Does it appear that the Sewer Use Ordinance is enforced？
Is Grease Trap Ordinance available？
Is Septic Tank Ordinance available（as applicable，i．e．annexation）
List enforcement actions by permiltee，if any，in the last 12 months
Has an acceptable Capital Improvement Plan（CIP）been implemented？
Does CIP address short term needs and long term I＂master plan！＂concepts？
Does CIP cover three to five year period？
Does CIP include Goal Statement？
Does CIP include descriplion of project area？
Does CIP include description of existing facilities？
Does CIP include known deficiencies？
Does CIP include forecasted future needs？
is CIP designated only for wastewater collection and treatment？
Approximate capital improvement budgel for collection system？
Total annual revenue for wastewater collection and treatment？
CIP Comments
is system free of known points of bypass？
If no，describe type of bypass and location
is a 24 －hour notification sign posted at ALL pump stations？
\＃Does the sign include：
Instructions for notification？
Pump station identifier？
24－hour contact numbers
If no，list deficient pump stations
\＃Do ALL pump stations have an＂auto polling＂feature／SCADA？
Number of pump stations
Number of pump stations that have SCADA
Number of pump stations that have simple telemetry
Number of pump stations that have only audible and visual alarms 3
Number of pump stations that do not meet permit requirements
\＃Does the permittee have a root control program？

3
Yes No NA NE
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## Inspections

Are maintenance records for sewer lines available?
Are records available that document pump station inspections?
Are SCADA or telemetry equipped pump stations inspected al least once a week?
Are non-SCADA/telemetry equipped pump stations inspected every day?
Are records available that document cilizen complaints?
\# Do you have a system to conduct an annual observation of entire system?
\# Has there been an observation of remole areas in the last year?
Are records available that document inspections of high-priority lines?
Has there been visual inspections of high-priority lines in last six months?
Comment: There were no records avallable that documented maintenance of the sewer lines.

## Operation \& Maintenance Requirements

Are all $\log$ books avallable?
Does supervisor review all log books on a regular basis?
Does the supervisor have plans to address documented short-term problem areas?
What is the schedule for reviewing inspection, maintenance, \& operations logs and problem areas? None known.

Are maintenance records for equipment available?
Is a schedule maintained for testing emergencyistandby equipnent?
What is the schedule for testing emergency/standby equipment?
Do pump station logs include:
Inside and outside cleaning and debris removal?
Inspecling and exercising all valves?
Inspecting and lubricating pumps and other equipment?
Inspecting alarms, telemetry and auxiliary equipment?
Is there at least one spare pump for each pump station w/o pump reliability?
Are maintenance records for right-of-ways available?
Are right-of-ways currently accessible in the event of an emergency?
Are system cleaning records available?
Has at least $10 \%$ of system been cleaned annually?
What areas are scheduled for cleaning in the next 12 months?
There are no spare pumps, he can get it fixed or buy another if the need arises. The ROW for the force mains at the back of the residents yards needs to be maintained for accessibility if an emergency arises.


Yes No NA NE



No schedule was available.


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## Monitoring and Reporting Requirements

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Permit: WQCSD0063
Inspection Date; 09/11/2014

Owner - Facility: Horse Creek Farms Utilities Corporallon
Inspection Type : Collection System Inspect Non Sampling

| Are coples of required press releases and distribution lists available? | $\square \square \square$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| Are public notices and proof of publication available? | $\square \square \square$ |
| \# Is an annual report being prepared in accordance with G.S. 143-215.1C? | $\square$ |
| \# Is permitlee compliant with all compliance schedules in the permits? |  |
| If no, which one(s)? |  |

## Comment:

HORSE CK FARMS LS \#2 -
Pump Station
Pump station typ


Does it include:

Permit: WQCSD0063
Inspection Date: 09/11/2014

Owner - Facility: Horse Creek Farms Utiliftes Corporation
Inspection Type : Collection Systern Inspect Non Sampling Reason for Visit: Rouline
Instructions for notificalion?


$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Comment: } \text { No SCADa or telemetry on the liff station. No quick connect available for a portable pump. Both } \\
& \text { of the } 4 \text { inch force lines look fairly corroded. The mount for the rails on one side has come off } \\
& \text { the support beam. The tops of the rails are corroded and the rails look pretty rusty. The ROW } \\
& \text { for the force main needs to be mainained. }
\end{aligned}
$$

## HORSE CK FARMS LS \#3 -

## Pump Station

Pump station lype
Are pump station logs available?
Is it accessible in all weather conditions?
\# Is general housekeeping acceplable?
Are all pumps present?
Are all pumps operable?
Are wet wells free of excessive debris?
Are upstream manholes free of excessive debris/signs of overlow?
Are floats/controls for pumps/alarms operable?
Is "auto polling" feature/SCADA present?
Is "auto polling" feature/SCADA operational?
Is simple telemetry present?
Is simple telemetry operational?
Are audio and visual alarms present?
Are audio and visual alarms operable?
Is the Pump station inspected as required?
Are backflow devices in place?
Are backflow devices operable?
Are air relief valves in place?
Are air relief valves operable?
\# Is an emergency generator avallable?
Can the emergency generator run the pumps?
Is the pump station equipped for quick hook-up?
Is the generator operable?

Yes No NA NE Duplex


Permit: WQCSD0063
Inspection Date: 09/11/2014
Owner - Facility: Horse Creek Farms Utilities Corporation
Inspection Type: Collection System Inspect Non Sampling
Reason for Visit: Routine
\# Is fuel in tank and sufficient?


Is the generator inspected according to their schedule?
Iṣ a 24 -hour notification sign posted?
Does it include:
Instructions for notification?
Pump station identifier?
Emergency phone number
Is public access limited?
Is pump station free of overlow piping?
Is the pump station free of signs of overflow?
Are run times comparable for multiple pumps?

|  | $\square$ | $\square$ | $\square$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

## HORSE CK FARM LS \#1 -

## Pump Station

Pump station type
Are pump station logs available?
Is it accessible in all weather conditions?
\# Is general housekeeping acceptable?
Are all pumps present?
Are all pumps operable?
Are wet wells free of excessive debris?
Are upsiream manholes free of excessive debris/signs of overflow?
Are floats/controls for pumps/alarms operable?
Is "auto polling" fealure/SCADA present?
Is "aulo poling" feature/SCADA operational?
Is simple telemetry present?
Is simple telemetry operational?
Are audio and visual alarms present?
Are audio and visual alarms operable?
Is the Pump station inspected as required?
Are backflow devices in place?
Are backflow devices operable?
Are air relief valves in place?
Are air relief valves operable?


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Permit: WQCSD0063
Owner - Facility: Horse Creek Farms Utilities Corporation
Inspection Date: 09/11/2014
Inspection Type: Collection System Inspect Non Sampling
\# Is an emergency generator avallable?
Can the emergency generator run the pumps?


Does it include:
Instruclions for notification?
Pump station identifier?
Emergency phone number
Is public access limited?
Is pump station free of overflow piping?
Is the pump station free of signs of overflow?


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no

Comment: Scada nor telemetry are being used at the pump station. There is no quick connect for a generator or portable generator at the pump station. One of the rails has been removed because it came loose from the bottom. One of the 4 inch force main pipes has a crack in it, as the inspectors could hear the air hammer effect when air was being sucked into the line. Both of the 4 inch foce main pipes are in advaanced stages of deterioration and should be replaced soon.

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North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Pat McCrory
Governor

John E. Skvarla, III
Secretary

December 31, 2014

## CERTIFIED MAIL \#7010 0290000308339106 RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Horse Creek Farms Utilities Corp.
Attn: Debby Crayton, President
PO Box 14046
New Bern, NC 28561-4046

## Subject: NOTICE OF VIOLATION \& INTENT TO ASSESS CIVIL PENALTY Tracking No. NOV 2014-PC-0281

Horse Creek Farms Collection System Inspection
DEEMED Permit No. WQCSD 0063
Horse Creek Farms Collection System
Onslow County

## Dear Mrs. Crayton:

On September 15, 2014, a Notice of Deficiency (NOD) inspection letter was sent to your office, the green card was signed by you on September 26, 2014. As of the date of this letter we have received no response from you. The inspectors conducted a second inspection on December 11, 2014, to check for any upgrades or requested maintenance on the collection system as discussed in the NOD. These inspections were to verify that the facility is operating in compliance with the conditions and limitations specified in 15A NCAC 02T.0403. The findings and comments noted during this inspection are provided in the enclosed copy of the inspection report entitled "Compliance Inspection Report".
The following violations were noted during the inspection:

## Compliance Issues <br> The pump stations are not being maintained as required by 15A NCAC 02T.0403(a)(1) <br> The right-of-ways and easements are not being maintained as required by 15A NCAC 02T.403(a)(9)

A Notice of Violation/Intent to Issue Civil Penalty is being issued for the noted violations of North Carolina General Statute (G.S.) 143-215.1 and the facility's deemed status under15A NCAC 02T .0403. Pursuant to G.S. 143-215.6A, a civil penalty of not more than twenty-five thousand dollars $(\$ 25,000.00)$ may be assessed against any person who violates or fails to act in accordance with the terms, conditions, or requirements of any permit issued pursuant to G.S. 143-215.1.

If you wish to provide additional information regarding the noted violation, request technical assistance, or discuss overall compliance please respond in writing within ten (10) business days after receipt of this Notice. A review of your response will be considered and you will then be notified of any civil penalties that may be assessed regarding the violations. If no response is received in this Office within the $\mathbf{1 0 - d a y}$ period, a civil penalty assessment may be prepared.

Remedial actions should have already been taken to correct these problems and prevent issues in the future. The Division of Water Resources may pursue enforcement action for this and any additional violations of State law. If the violations are of a continuing nature, not related to operation and/or maintenance problems, and you anticipate remedial construction activities, then you may wish to consider applying for a Special Order by Consent.

If you have any questions concerning this Notice of Violation or the enclosed inspection report, you may contact Joanne Steenhuis at the letterhead contact information or via email at Joanne.Steenhuis@ncdenr.gov.

Sincerely,


Water Quality Regional Operations Section

## Enclosure

> cc: Michael Myers - Operations Manager - electronic copy
> Wilmington Regional Office - WQCSD0063 File
> Central Files, Water Quality Section

## Compliance Inspection Report



## (See attachment summary)

| Pernit: WQCSDOO63 | Owner - Facllity: Horse Creek Farms Utilities Corporation |
| :---: | :---: |
| Inspection Date: 12/11/2014 | Inspection Type: Coliection System Inspect Non Sampling |

Inspection Summary:
The owner has received the Notice of Deficiency dated September 14, 2014 on September 26, 2014. As of this date (12/31/2014), this Office has not received a response.

The inspectors also took a quick look at the WWTP and found several issues that should be dealt with ASAP. The EQ tank is buckling, the walkways on top are in desparate need of repair as in some areas it is missing or rotting away.

## LS \＃1 HORSE CREEK FA－

## Pump Station

Pump station type
Yes No NA NE
Are pump station logs available？
Is it accessible in all weather conditions？
\＃Is general housekeeping acceptable？
Are all pumps present？
Are all pumps operable？
Are wet wells free of excessive debris？
Are upstream manholes free of excessive debris／signs of overtlow？
Are floais／controls for pumps／alarms operable？
Is＂auto polling＂feature／SCADA present？
Is＂auto polling＂feature／SCADA operallonal？
Is simple telematry present？
Is simple telemetry operational？
Are audio and visual alarms present？
Are audio and visual alarms operable？
Is the Pump station Inspected as required？
Are backflow devices in place？
Are backflow devices operable？
Are air relief valves in place？
Are alr relief valves operable？
\＃Is an emergency generator available？
Can the emergency generator run the pumps？
Is the pump station equipped for quick hook－up？
Is the generator operable？
\＃Is fuel in tank and sufficient？
Is the generator inspected according to their schedule？
Is a 24－hour nolficication sign posted？
Does it include：
Instructions for notification？
Pump station identifier？
Emergency phone number
Is public access limited？
Is pump station free of overflow piping？
Is the pump station free of signs of overflow？

Duplex
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Page： 3

| Comment: | There has been no maintenance conducted since the last inspection. The crack in the pipe is |
| :--- | :--- |
| getting larger and both pipes are still deteriorating. The rail has still not been replaced and there |  |
| is still no generator available nor a quick connect. |  |

## LS \# 3 HORSE CK FARM -

## Pump Station

Pump station lype Yes No NE $\quad$ Yes

Are pump station logs available?
Is it accessible in all weather conditions?
\# Is general housekeeping acceptable?
Are all pumps present?
Are all pumps operable?
Are wet wells free of excessive debris?
Are upstream manholes free of excessive debris/signs of overflow?
Are floats/controls for pumps/alarms operable?
Is "auto polling" feature/SCADA present?
Is "auto polling" feature/SCADA operational?
Is simple telemetry present?
Is simple telemetry operational?
Are audio and visual alarms present?
Are audio and visual alarms operable?
Is the Pump station inspected as required?
Are backflow devices in place?
Are backflow devices operable?
Are air relief valves in place?
Are air relief valves operable?
\# Is an emergency generator available?
Can the emergency generator run the pumps?
Is the pump station equipped for quick hook-up?
Is the generator operable?
\# Is fuel in tank and sufficient?
Is the generator inspected according to their schedule?
Is a 24 -hour notification sign posted?
Does it include:
Instructions for notification?
Pump station Idenilfier?
Emergency phone number


Page: 4

| Permit: WQCSDOO63 <br> Inspection Date: $12 / 11 / 2014$ | Owner - Facility: Horse Creek Farms Utilifies Corporation <br> Inspection Type : Collection System Inspect Non Sampling | Reasoll for Visit: | Routine |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Is public access limited? |  |  |  |
| Is pump station free of overflow piping? |  |  |  |
| Is the pump slation free of signs of overllow? |  |  | $\square$ |
| Are run times comparable for mulliple pumps? |  |  | ot evaluate |
| $\begin{aligned} \text { Comment: } & \begin{array}{l} \text { The floats were recently } \\ \text { been fixed falthough the } \\ \\ \text { not been maintained. } \end{array} \end{aligned}$ | ced as they stopped functioning. The tops o not as corroded as the other two lift station | rails have no he ROW still |  |

## LS \# 2 HORSE CK FARM -

## Pump Station

## Pump station type <br> Yes No NA NE Duplex

Are pump stalion logs available?
Is it accessible in all weather conditions?
\# Is general housekeeping acceptable?
Are all pumps present?
Are all pumps operable?
Are wet wells free of excessive debris?
Are upstream manholes free of excessive debris/signs of overflow?
Are floats/controls for pumps/alarms operable?
Is "auto polling" feature/SCADA present?
Is "auto polling" feature/SCADA operational?
Is simple telemetry present?
Is simple telemetry operational?
Are audio and visual alarms present?
Are audio and visual alarms operable?
Is the Pump station inspected as required?
Are backflow devices in place?
Are backflow devices operable?
Are air relief valves in place?
Are air relief valves operable?
\# Is an emergency generator available?
Can the emergency generator run the pumps?
Is the pump station equipped for quick hook-up?
Is the generator operable?
\# Is fuel in tank and sufficient?
Is the generator inspected according to their schedule?
Is a 24-hour notification sign posted?
Does It include:

Permilt: WQCSD0063
IIrspectlon Date: 12/11/2014
Owner - Facility: Horse Creek Farms Utilities Corporalion Inspection Type: Collection System Inspect Non Sampling Reason for Visit: Routine

Instructions for notification?
Pump siation Identifier?
Emergency phona number
Is public access limited?
Is pump station free of overflow piping?
Is the pump station free of signs of overlow?
Are run limes comparable for multiple pumps?
Comment: No action has been taken since the last inspection. This lines silll look fairly corroded. The rail mount has not been repaired. the ROW has not been maintained.

North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Pat McCrory
Governor

Donald R. van der Vaart Secretary

March 18, 2015

## CERTIFIED MAIL \# 70100290000308338956 RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Horse Creek Farms Utilities Corporation
Attn: Debby Crayton
PO Box 14046
New Bern, NC 28561-4046

## SUBJECT: ASSESSMENY OF CIVIL PENALTY

Violations of 15A NCAC 02T . 0403 \& Deemed Permit\#: WaCSD0063
Horse Creek Farms Utility Corporation
Horse Creek Farms Collection Systems
Case No. PC-2015-0008
Onslow County
Dear Mrs. Crayton:
This letter transmits a Notice of Violation and assessment of a civil penalty in the amount of $\$ 2,199.30$ (civil penalty and enforcement costs) against the Horse Creek Farms Utility Corporation.

This assessment is based upon the following facts: a compliance inspection was conducted of the Horse Creek Farms Collection system owned and operated by the Horse Creek Farms Utility Corporation on September 11, 2014 and December 11, 2014. These inspections revealed the subject facility to be in violation of the requirements and conditions found in Deemed Permit\#: WaCSD0063. The violations identified are summarized in Attachment A to this letter.

Based upon the above facts, I conclude as a matter of law that the Horse Creek Farms Utility Corporation violated the terms, conditions or requirements of Deemed Permit\#: WQCSD0063 and 15A NCAC02T . 0403 in the manner and extent shown in Attachment A. In accordance with the maximums established by G.S. 143215.6A(a)(2), a civil penalty may be assessed against any person who violates the terms, conditions or requirements of a permit required by G.S. 143-215.1(a).

Based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, and in accordance with authority provided by the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Director of the Division of Water Resources, I, James H. Gregson, Wilmington Regional Office Supervisor, Water Quality Regional Operations Section, hereby make the following civil penalty assessment against the Horse Creek Farms Utility Corporation

| $\$ 1000.00$ | Pump stations are not being properly maintained |
| :---: | :--- |
| $\$ 1000.00$ | ROW for force mains and easements are not being maintained |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  | TOTAL CIVIL PENALTY |
|  | Enforcement Costs |
| $\$ 276.01$ | TOTAL AMOUNT DUE |
| $\$ 2276.01$ |  |

Pursuant to G.S. 143-215.6A(c), in determining the amount of the penalty I have taken into account the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and the factors set forth at G.S. 143B-282.1(b), which are:
(1) The degree and extent of harm to the natural resources of the State, to the public health, or to private property resulting from the violation;
(2) The duration and gravity of the violation;
(3) The effect on ground or surface water quantity or quality or on air quality;
(4) The cost of rectifying the damage;
(5) The amount of money saved by noncompliance;
(6) Whether the violation was committed willfully or intentionally;
(7) The prior record of the violator in complying or failing to comply with programs over which the Environmental Management Commission has regulatory authority; and
(8) The cost to the State of the enforcement procedures.

Within thirty days of receipt of this notice, you must do one of the following:

1. Submit payment of the penalty, $O R$
2. Submit a written request for remission, $\mathbf{O R}$
3. Submit a written request for an administrative hearing.

## Option 1: Submit pavment of the penalty:

Payment should be made directly to the order of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Payment of the penalty will not foreclose further enforcement action for any continuing or new violation(s). Do not include the attached waiver form if making payment.

Please submit payment to the attention of:
Wastewater Branch - PERCS Unit
Division of Water Resources
1617 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1617

Option 2: Submit a written request for remission or mitigation including a detailed justification for such request:
Please be aware that a request for remission is limited to consideration of the five factors listed below as they

- Horse creek Farms Utillties Corp.

Attn: Debby Crayton
March 13, 2015
Page 3 of 6
may relate to the reasonableness of the amount of the civil penalty assessed. Requesting remission is not the proper procedure for contesting whether the violation(s) occurred or the accuracy of any of the factual statements contained in the civil penalty assessment document. Because a remission request forecloses the option of an administrative hearing, such a request must be accompanied by a waiver of your right to an administrative hearing and a stipulation and agreement that no factual or legal issues are in dispute. Please prepare a detailed statement that establishes why you believe the civil penalty should be remitted, and submit it to the Division of Water Resources at the address listed below. In determining whether a remission request will be approved, the following factors shall be considered:
(1) whether one or more of the civil penalty assessment factors in NCGS 143B-282.1(b) was wrongfully applied to the detriment of the petitioner;
(2) whether the violator promptly abated continuing environmental damage resulting from the violation;
(3) whether the violation was inadvertent or a result of an accident;
(4) whether the violator had been assessed civil penalties for any previous violations; or
(5) whether payment of the civil penalty will prevent payment for the remaining necessary remedial actions.

Please note that all evidence presented in support of your request for remission must be submitted in writing. The Director of the Division of the Division of Water Resources will review your evidence and inform you of his decision in the matter of your remission request. The response will provide details regarding the case status, directions for payment, and provision for further appeal of the penalty to the Environmental Management Commission's Committee on Civil Penalty Remissions (Committee). Please be advised that the Committee cannot consider information that was not part of the original remission request considered by the Director. Therefore, it is very important that you prepare a complete and thorough statement in support of your request for remission.
In order to request remission, you must complete and submit the enclosed "Request for Remission of Civil Penalties/Waiver of Right to an Administrative Hearing and Stipulation of Facts" form within thirty ( 30 ) days of receipt of this notice. The Division of Water Resources also requests that you complete and submit the enclosed "Justification for Remission Request".

Both forms should be submitted to the following address:
Wastewater Branch - PERCS Unit
Division of Water Resources
1.617 Mail Service Center

Raleigh, NC 27699-1617

## Option 3: File a petition for an administrative hearing with the Office of Administrative Hearings:

If you wish to contest any statement in the attached assessment document you must file a petition for an administrative hearing. You may obtain the petition form from the Office of Administrative Hearings. You must. file the petition with the Office of Administrative Hearings within thirty ( 30 ) days of receipt of this notice. A petition is considered filed when it is received in the Office of Administrative Hearings during normal office hours. The Office of Administrative Hearings accepts filings Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., except for official state holidays. The petition may be filed by facsimile (fax) or electronic mail by an attached file (with restrictions) - provided the signed original, one (1) copy and a filing fee (if a filing fee is required by NCGS $£ 150 \mathrm{~B}-23.2$ ) is received in the Office of Administrative Hearings within seven (7)

Horse creek Farms Utilities Corp.
Attn: Debby Crayton
March 13, 2015
Page 4 of 6
business days following the faxed or electronic transmission. You should contact the office of Administrative Hearings with all questions regarding the filing fee and/or the details of the filing process.

The mailing address and telephone and fax numbers for the Office of Administrative Hearings are as follows:

Office of Administrative Hearings
6714 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-6714
Tel: (919) 733-2698
Fax: (919) 733-3478

You must also mail or hand deliver a copy of the written petition to:

| Sam M. Hayes, General Counsel | AND | Wastewater Branch-PERCS Unit |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| NC DENR |  | Division of Water Resources |
| 1601 Mail Service Center |  | 1617 Mail Service Center |
| Raleigh, NC 27699-1601 |  | Raleigh, NC 27699-1617 |

Failure to exercise one of the options above within thirty (30) days of receipt of this letter, as evidenced by an internal date/time received stamp (not a postmark), will result in this matter being referred to the Attorney General's Office for collection of the penalty through a civil action. Please be advised that additional penalties may be assessed for violations that occur after the review period of this assessment.

Please be advised that any continuing violation(s) may be the subject of a new enforcement action, including an additional penalty. If you have any questions about this civil penalty assessment, please contact Joanne Steenhuis in the Wilmington Regional Office at (910) 796-7215.


## ATTACHMENTS

[^0]

## JUSTIEICATION FOR REMISSION REQUEST

DWQ Case Number: PC-2015-0008
Assessed Party: Horse Creek Farms Utility Corporation Deemed Permit No.: WQCSD0063

County: Onslow
Amount Assessed: $\$ 2276.01$

Please use this form when requesting remission of this civil penalty, You must also complete the "Request for Remission, Waiver of Right to an Administrative Hearing, and Stipulation of Facts" form to request remission of this civil penalty, You should attach any documents that you believe support your request and are necessary for the Director to consider in evaluating your request for remission. Please be aware that a request for remission is limited to consideration of the five factors listed below as they may relate to the reasonableness of the amount of the civil penalty assessed. Requesting remission is not the proper procedure for contesting whether the violation(s) occurred or the accuracy of any of the factual statements contained in the civil penalty assessment document. Pursuant to N.C.G.S. § $1438-282.1(\mathrm{c})$, remission of a civil penalty may be granted only when one or more of the following five factors apply. Please check each factor that you believe applies to your case and provide a detailed explanation, including copies of supporting documents, as to why the factor applies (attach additional pages as needed).
(a) one or more of the civil penalty assessment factors in N.C.G.S. 143B-282.1(b) were wrongfully applied to the detriment of the petitioner (the assessment factors are listed in the civil penalty assessment document);
(b) the violator promptly abated continuing environmental damage resulting from the violation (i.e., explain the steps that you took to correct the violation and prevent future occurrences);
(c) the violation was inadvertent or a result of an accident (i.e., explain why the violation was unavoidable or something you could not prevent or prepare for);
$\qquad$ (d) the violator had not been assessed civil penalties for any previous violations;
(e) payment of the civil penalty will prevent payment for the remaining necessary remedial actions (i.e., explain how payment of the civil penalty will prevent you from performing the activities necessary to achieve compliance).

## EXPLANATION:

IN THE MATTER OF ASSESSMENT OF CIVIL PENALTIES AGAINST

HORSE CREEK FARMS UTILITY CORPORATION
Horse Creek Farms Collection System
Deemed PERMIT NO. WQCSD0063
) WAIVER OF RIGHT TO AN
) ADMINSTRATIVE HEARING AND
) STIPULATION OF FACTS
$)$ CASE NO. PC-2015-0008

Having been assessed civil penalties totaling $\$ 2276.01$ for violation(s) as set forth in the assessment document of the Division of Water Resources dated March 18, 2015, the undersigned, desiring to seek remission of the civil penalty, does hereby waive the right to an administrative hearing in the above-stated matter and does stipulate that the facts are as alleged in the assessment document. The undersigned further understands that all evidence presented in support of remission of this civil penalty must be submitted to the Director of the Division of Water Resources within thirty ( 30 ) days of receipt of the notice of assessment. No new evidence in support of a remission request will be allowed after ( 30 ) days from the receipt of the notice of assessment.

This the $\qquad$ day of $\qquad$ 20 $\qquad$

SIGNATURE
ADDRESS
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$

TELEPHONE

North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Pat McCrory
Governor

$$
\begin{array}{rr}
\text { March 18, } 2015 & \begin{array}{r}
\text { Donald R. van der Fart } \\
\text { Secretary }
\end{array}
\end{array}
$$

## CERTIFIED MAIL \# 70100290000308338956 RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Horse Creek Farms Utilities Corporation
Attn: Debby Crayton
PO Box 14046
New Bern, NC 28561-4046

## SUBJECT: <br> ASSESSMENT OF CIVIL PENALTY

Violations of 15A NCAC 02T . 0403 \& Deemed Per
Horse Creek Farms Utility Corporation
Horse Creek Farms Collection Systems

Case No. PC-2015-0008
Onslow County


Dear Mrs. Crayton:
This letter transmits a Notice of penalty and enforcement costs)

This assessment is based upon th Farms Collection system owned a 2014 and December 11, 2014. Th requirements and conditions four in Attachment A to this letter.

Based upon the above facts, I conc violated the terms, conditions or ri manner and extent shown in Attacl 215.6A(a)(2), a civil penalty may be requirements of a permit required $k$ Based upon the above findings of far Secretary of the Department of Envi Resources, I, James H. Gregson, Win Section, hereby make the following $c$
conidymak
Complete items 1,2 , and 3 . Also complete Item 4 If Restricted Delivery is desired.
Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you. Attach this card to the back of the mailplece, or on the front if space permits.


## Lewis, Steven

| From: | Steenhuis, Joanne |
| :--- | :--- |
| Sent: | Friday, April 24, 2015 8:31 AM |
| To: | Lewis, Steven |
| Subject: | RE: HCF Penalty Remission for PC-2015-0008 |
| Attachments: | horse creek farms collections.pdf; horse creek farms nov.pdf |

A copy of the assessment letter went to the PERCS unit with attachments, I don't have a scanned copy of that.

From: Lewis, Steven
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2015 3:07 PM
To: Steenhuis, Joanne
Subject: FW: HCF Penalty Remission for PC-2015-0008

Joanne - When you get a chance, could you email the NOV and penalty assessment to me, please? And any other info related to the case. Thanks.

From: Scott Smart [mailto:ssmart@envirolinkinc.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2015 12:11 PM
To: Lewis, Steven
Cc: debby crayton; Steenhuis, Joanne
Subject: FW: HCF Penalty Remission for PC-2015-0008

Mr. Lewis,
As discussed, attached is the justification for remission of PC-2015-008. Please let us know if you need any additional information to process this request.

## Scott Smart, PE

Senior Quality Manger
Envirolink Inc.
ssmart@envirolinkinc.com
252-235-4900-Office
252-290-5646 -Mobile

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## Lewis, Steven

| From: | Lewis, Steven |
| :--- | :--- |
| Sent: | Thursday, April 30, 2015 10:49 AM |
| To: | 'Scott Smart' |
| Cc: | debby crayton; Steenhuis, Joanne |
| Subject: | RE: HCF Penalty Remission for PC-2015-0008 |

Thanks, Scott. I have emailed the regional office for their input. When I get that, the central office will consider the remission request at the next remissions conference, probably in the first week of June.

From: Scott Smart [mailto:ssmart@envirolinkinc.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2015 12:11 PM
To: Lewis, Steven
Cc: debby crayton; Steenhuis, Joanne
Subject: FW: HCF Penalty Remission for PC-2015-0008
Mr. Lewis,
As discussed, attached is the justification for remission of PC-2015-008. Please let us know if you need any additional information to process this request.

Scott Smart, PE
Senior Quality Manger
Envirolink Inc.
ssmart@envirolinkinc.com
252-235-4900- Office
252-290-5646 -Mobile

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IN THE MATTER OF ASSESSMENT OF CIVIL PENALTIES AGAINST

HORSE CREEK FARMS UTILITY CORPORATION
Horse Creek Farms Collection System
Deemed PERMIT NO. WQCSD0063.
) WAIVER OF RIGHT TO AN
ABMINSTRATIVE HEARING AND
) STIPULATION OF FACTS
) CASE NO. PC-2015-0008

Having been assessed civil penalties totaling \$276.01 for violation (s) as set forth in the assessment document of the Division of Water Resources dated March 18, 2015, the undersigned, desiring to seek remission of the civil penalty, does hereby waive the right to an administrative hearing in the above-stated matter and does stipulate that the facts are as alleged in the assessment document. The undersigned further understands that all evidence presented in support of remission of this civil penalty must be submitted to the Director of the Division of Water Resources within thirty (30) days of receipt of the notice of assessment. No new evidence in support of a remission request will be allowed after ( 30 ) days from the receipt of the notice of assessment.


ADDRESS


TELEPHONE
$252-670-9933$

Please use this form when requesting remission of this civil penalty. You must also complete the "Request for Remission, Waiver of Right to an Administrative Hearing, and Stipulation of Facts" form to request remission of this civil penalty. You should attach any documents that you believe support your request and are necessary for the Director to consider in evaluating your request for remission. Please be aware that a request for remission is limited to consideration of the five factors listed below as they may relate to the reasonableness of the amount of the civil penalty assessed. Requesting remission is not the proper procedure for contesting whether the violation(s) occurred or the accuracy of any of the factual statements contained in the civil penalty assessment document. Pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143B-282.1(c), remission of a civil penalty may be granted only when one or more of the following five factors apply. Please check each factor that you believe applies to your case and provide a detailed explanation, including copies of supporting documents, as to why the factor applies (attach additional pages as needed).
one or more of the civil penalty assessment factors in N.C.G.S. 143B-282.1(b) were wrongfully assessment document);
(b) the violator promptly abated continuing environmental damage resulting from the violation
(i.e., explain the steps that you took to correct the violation and prevent future occurrences). (i.e., explain the steps that you took to correct the violation and prevent future occurrences);
(c) the violation was inadvertent or a result of an accident (i.e., explain why the violation was
unavoidable or something you could not prevent or prepare for). unavoidable or something you could not prevent or prepare for);

- (d) the violator had not been assessed civil penalties for any previous violations;
(e) payment of the civilpenalty will prevent payment for the remaining necessary remedial actions (i.e., explain how payment of the civil penalty will prevent you from performing the activities necessary to achieve compliance).


## EXPLANATION:

Horse Creek Farms has been unable to finance the maintenance on the pump stations and ROW of easements in the system. For this reason, Horse Creek Farms has been in negotiations on the sale of their system to the financially viable Old North State Water Company. Horse Creek Farms and OId North State Water Company are still negotiating purchase price. The cost of this penalty would negatively impact these negotiations, further jeopardizing or delaying the remedial actions.

Pat McCrory Governor

Donald R. van der Vaart
Secretary

June 2, 2015

Horse Creek Farms Utilities Corporation
Attn: Debby Crayton
PO Box 14046
New Bern, NC 28561-4046
SUBJECT: Remission Request
Civil Penalty Assessment
Horse Creek Farms Collection System
Onslow County
Permit No. WQCSD0063.
PC-2015-0008
Dear Ms. Crayton,
In accordance with North Carolina General Statute 143-215.6A(f), the Director of the North Carolina Division of Water Quality considered the information you submitted in support of your request for remission and did not find grounds to modify the civil penalty assessment of $\$ 2,276.01$. A copy of the Director's decision is attached.
Two options are available to you at this stage of the remission process:

## 1) You may pay the penalty.

If you decide to pay the penalty please make your check payable to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Send the payment within thirty (30) calendar days of your receipt of this letter
to the attention of:

Mr. Steve Lewis<br>Division of Water Resources PERCS Unit 1617 Mail Service Center<br>Raleigh, NC 27699-1617

## OR

2) You may decide to have the Environmental Management Commission's (EMC) Committee on Civil Penalty Remissions make the final decision on your remission request.

If payment is not received within 30 calendar days from your receipt of this letter, your request for remission with supporting documents and the recommendation of the Director of the North Carolina Division of Water Quality will be delivered to the Committee on Civil Penalty Remissions for final agency decision.

If you or your representative would like to speak before the Committee, you must complete and return the attached Request for Oral Presentation Form within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of this letter. Send the completed form to:

Mr. Steve Lewis
Pretreatment, Emergency Response, Collection Systems Unit
Division of Water Resources
1617 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1617
The EMC Chairman will review the supporting documents and your request for an oral presentation (if you make the request). If the Chairman determines that there is a compelling reason to require a presentation, you will be notified of when and where you should appear. If a presentation is not required, the final decision will be based upon the written record.

If you have any questions, please call me at (919) 807-6308.
Sincerely,


Steve Lewis
Pretreatment, Emergency Response and
Collection Systems Unit
Division of Water Resources, NCDENR

cc: Enforcement File PC-2015-0008<br>Jim Gregson, Wilmington Regional Office Supervisor<br>Joanne Steenhuis, WIRO<br>Central Files

## DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES CIVIL PENALTY REMISSION FACTORS

Case Number: PC-2015-0008 Assessed Entity: Horse Creek Farms

County: Onslow<br>Permit: WQCSD0063

(a) Whether one or more of the civil penalty assessment factors were wrongly applied to the detriment of the petitioner:
(b) Whether the violator promptly abated continuing environmental damage resulting from the violation:
(c) Whether the violation was inadvertent or a result of an accident:
$\square$ (d) Whether the violator had been assessed civil penalties for any previous violations:
【 (e) Whether payment of the civil penalty will prevent payment for the remaining necessary remedial actions:

- Horse Creek Farms states that they have been unable to finance the maintenance on the pump stations and right-of-way easements. They have been in negotiations to sell their system to Old North State Water Company. The cost of the penalty would negatively impact the negotiations further jeopardizing or delaying remedial actions.
- Summarize Region's position for denial/partiallfull remission

In response to the Notice of Violation / Notice of Intent to Assess Horse Creek Farm indicates that the problems discovered during the inspection will be taken care of by Old North State Water Corporation (ONSWC) once the sale of the system is complete. There has been no attempt by Horse Creek Farms to resolve the issues other than seeking quotes to have ROWs cleared. Unless Horse Creek Farms can produce a deed as proof that the facility has been transferred to ONSWC, the Wilmington Office is not in support of remitting any of the penalty.


# ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT <br> COMMISSION 

## COUNTY OF ONSLOW

## IN THE MATTER OF ASSESSMENT OF CIVIL PENALTIES AGAINST:

## HORSE CREEK FARMS UTILTTY CORPORATION

DWR Case Number PC-2015-0008

## ) REQUEST FOR ORAL PRESENTATION

I hereby request to make an oral presentation before the Environmental Management Commission's Committee on Civil Penalty Remissions in the matter of the case noted above. In making this request, I assert that $I$ understand all of the following statements:

- This request will be reviewed by the Chairman of the Environmental Management Commission and may be either granted or denied.
- Making a presentation will require the presence of myself and/or my representative during a Committee meeting held in Raleigh, North Carolina.
- My presentation will be limited to discussion of issues and information submitted in my original remission request, and because no factual issues are in dispute, my presentation will be limited to five (5) minutes in length.

The North Carolina State Bar's Authorized Practice of Law Committee has ruled that the appearance in a representative capacity at quasi-judicial hearings or proceedings is limited to lawyers who are active members of the bar. Proceedings before the Committee on Remissions are quasi-judicial. You should consider how you intend to present your case to the Committee in light of the State Bar's opinion and whether anyone will be speaking in a representative capacity for you or a business or governmental entity. If you or your representative would like to speak before the Committee, you must complete and return this form within thirty (30) days of receipt of this letter.

Depending on your status as an individual, corporation, partnership or municipality, the State Bar's Opinion affects how you may proceed with your oral presentation. See www.ncbar.com/ethics, Authorized Practice Advisory Opinion 2006-1 and 2007 Formal Ethics Opinion 3.

- If you are an individual or business owner and are granted an opportunity to make an oral presentation before the Committee, then you do not need legal representation before the Committee; however, if you intend on having another individual speak on your behalf regarding the factual situations, such as an expert, engineer or consultant, then you must also be present at the meeting in order to avoid violating the State Bar's Opinion on the unauthorized practice of law.
- If you are a corporation, partnership or municipality and are granted an opportunity to make an oral presentation before the Committee, then your representative must consider the recent State Bar's Opinion and could be considered practicing law without a license if he or she is not a licensed attorney. Presentation of facts by non-lawyers is permissible.

If you choose to request an oral presentation, please make sure that signatures on the previously submitted Remission Request form and this Oral Presentation Request form are: 1) for individuals and business owners, your own signature and 2) for corporations, partnerships and municipalities, signed by individuals who would not violate the State Bar's Opinion on the unauthorized practice of law.

Also, be advised that the Committee on Civil Penalty Remissions may choose not to proceed with hearing your case if the Committee is informed that a violation of the State Bar occurs.

This the $\qquad$ day of $\qquad$ 20 $\qquad$ $-$

## SIGNATURE

TrTLE (President, Owner, etc.)

## ADDRESS




[^0]:    cc: Regional Supervisor w/ attachments
    PERCS Unit Enforcement File w/ attachments
    Central Files w/ attachments
    WiRO Files w/ attachments

