



Douglas A. Ducey  
Governor

# ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



Misael Cabrera  
Director

## Water Quality Complaint Inspection Report

<b>Facility Name:</b> Section 11 WWTP	<b>Complaint No:</b> 14369
<b>Physical Location:</b> 5452 East Hunt Highway <b>City, State, Zip:</b> Florence, AZ 85132	<b>Inspection No.:</b> 295767
<b>County:</b> Pinal	<b>Arrival Date and Time:</b> 1/25/2018 10:30 AM
<b>Mailing Address:</b> 5230 East Shea Blvd, Ste. 200 <b>City, State, Zip:</b> Scottsdale, AZ	<b>Inspector(s):</b> Isa Valdez, Mindi Cross, and David Dunaway
<b>Coordinates (for new locations):</b> N/A	<b>Inspector Phone:</b> 602-771-2302 <b>Inspector Email:</b> valdez.isa@azdeq.gov
<b>Owner/Responsible Party:</b> Johnson Utilities, LLC	<b>Was Inspection Announced?</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Onsite Contact Person(s)/Facility Operator(s):</b> Jed Lant, Wastewater Lead Operator Grade 4C and 4W. Expiration 10/30/2018 Jordan, Wastewater Operator – Not Certified	<b>Weather:</b> Sunny
<b>Nearest Receiving Water, if applicable (indicate distance):</b> N/A	
<b>Inspection Report Issued:</b> Via email from ADEQ office	<b>Facility Initial:</b> <b>ADEQ Initial:</b>
<b>Results of Inspection:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> No deficiencies were noted during the course of the inspection. No ADEQ action will result from this inspection. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Potential deficiencies were noted during the course of the inspection. Additional correspondence regarding this inspection may be forthcoming.	
<b>Comments:</b> Failure to operate and maintain all permitted facilities to prevent unauthorized discharges pursuant to A.R.S. § 49-201(12) resulting from failure or bypassing of applicable BADCT. <b>Attachments:</b> Attachment A – Notice of Inspection Rights Attachment B – Photograph Log Attachment C – Section 11 Site Map Attachment D – 2015 Compliance Documentation	
<b>PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN DURING INSPECTIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST</b>	

### Main Office

1110 W. Washington Street • Phoenix, AZ 85007  
(602) 771-2300

### Southern Regional Office

400 W. Congress Street • Suite 433 • Tucson, AZ 85701  
(520) 628-6733

[www.azdeq.gov](http://www.azdeq.gov)

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<b>Description of the Complaint</b>	<p>On Monday January 21, 2018, ADEQ received approximately 40 complaints in reference to the Johnson Utilities, LLC, and Section 11 WWTP. The majority of the complaints pointed out frequent sewage odors, in many cases for multiple hours. One complainant stated that a pipeline was discharging water emitting sewage odor to an area located before the railroad tracks on the southwest portion of the facility.</p>
<b>Observations:</b>	<p>A. At approximately 10:30 AM ADEQ staff arrived at the Section 11 WWTP (<i>See Attachment C</i>), upon arrival ADEQ met with the Johnson Utilities staff. During the walk through several deficiencies were observed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. At the time of inspection, Recharge Basin #4 was overflowing at the northwest corner. Effluent was flowing west towards the dirt road (<i>See Attachment B - Photo No. 1</i>).</li> <li>2. Recharge Basin #4 and #5 were observed with no freeboard (<i>See Attachment B – Photo No. 4 and Photo No. 9</i>), as required in APP P-103081 Section 4.2 Table III.</li> <li>3. Effluent observed overflowing at the southeast corner of Recharge Basin #7 (<i>See Attachment B – Photo No. 5</i>). The drainage pattern and soil erosion indicates the effluent is flowing towards a wash identified as stormwater Detention basin. Jed Lant, Lead Wastewater Operator of Section 11 WWTP, stated it is unknown the quantity of effluent that has overflowed to Detention basin (<i>See Attachment B – Photo No. 6</i>).             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. ADEQ observed the same conditions on March 6, 2015 resulting in a Notice of Violation (NOV) dated May 11, 2015.</li> <li>b. The NOV was closed after Johnson Utilities responded in July 21, 2015. The response included employee training assuring operators were aware of the effluent disposal rules. Additionally, modification was made to the Operator's Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) to avoid future unauthorized discharges. (<i>See Attachment D</i>).</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. Recharge Basin #5 was observed with saturated soil outside the basin, sign of previous overflowing (<i>See Attachment B –Photo No. 9</i>).</li> <li>5. Jed Lant stated Section 11 WWTP is not disposing enough effluent, which causes overflowing of the recharge basins. This condition is due to lower demand by reclaim end users during winter season. At the time of inspection, no corrective action has been developed to stop discharge to Detention basin from recharge basin effluent.</li> <li>6. Jed Lant commented that operators contain the effluent within property boundaries when overflowing occurs and avoid discharge outside the Section 11 WWTP property.</li> <li>7. Section 11 WWTP failed to notify ADEQ of freeboard exceedances performance levels, specifically set for the recharge basins. No 5 day notification were reported to ADEQ neither a 30 day investigation</li> </ol>

	<p>report. According to WWTP Operator, he did not know these reports were needed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. At the time of inspection, Jed Lant commented the solar panel area can be used as recharge basin. ADEQ clarified this area is not an APP facility and shall not be used unless an amendment is approved by ADEQ.</li> <li>9. At the time of inspection, the operators did not have an Operations and Maintenance Manual and current APP on-site, as required by APP P-103081 <i>Section 2.2.4 Operation Requirements</i> and <i>Section 2.7.2 Operation Inspection</i>.</li> <li>10. Jed Lant commented the recharge basins maintenance has been conducted for the previous two years. Before his operations it is unknown if maintenance was conducted at the basins.</li> <li>11. Offensive odors were not perceived at any time during the ADEQ inspection at the aeration lagoons and recharge basins.</li> </ol> <p>B. Strong sewage odor was identified outside of the lift station as driving on N Hunt Hwy towards the Section 11 WWTP, approximately at 8:30 AM.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The lift station was identified as Oasis Sunrise, located at the intersection of Mirage Ave and N Hunt Hwy. ADEQ inspected the lift station after Section 11 WWTP.</li> <li>2. At the time of the inspection, strong odor was perceived by ADEQ staff, within the lift station property.</li> <li>3. An oil stain was observed on the soil, adjacent to the wet well (<i>See Attachment B – Photo No. 10</i>).</li> </ol>
<p><b>Comments and Potential Deficiencies:</b></p>	<p>Based upon photographic documentation (<i>Attachment B</i>), potential deficiencies were noted during the course of the inspection, additional correspondence regarding the inspection may be forthcoming.</p>