

Region 6 Compliance Assurance and Enforcement Division

INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Date(s):	06/29/2023		
Media:	Water		
Regulatory Program(s)	Clean Water Act		
Company Name:	City of Ruston		
Facility Name:	City of Ruston – Northside WWTP		
Facility Physical Location:	1717 Goodwin Rd		
(city, state, zip code)	Ruston, LA 71273		
Mailing address:	PO Box 2069		
(city, state, zip code)	Ruston, LA 71273		
County/Parish:	Lincoln Parish		
Facility Contact:	Ronny Walker	Mayor	
	mayor@rustonla.gov		
	318-251-8621		
FRS Number:			
Identification/Permit Number:	LA0036323		
Media Number:			
NAICS:			
SIC:	4952		
Personnel participating in inspection:			
Michael Williams	EPA/ 6EN-WMH	Inspector	281-983-2150
Casey Jackson	Ruston	Head Operator	318-251-8641
EPA Lead Inspector Signature/Date	  Digitally signed by MICHAEL WILLIAMS Date: 2023.09.13 16:14:03 -05'00'		
	Michael D. Williams		Date
Supervisor Signature/Date	ROBERTO BERNIER  Digitally signed by ROBERTO BERNIER Date: 2023.09.13 16:18:44 -05'00'		
	Roberto Bernier		Date

Section I - Introduction

PURPOSE OF THE INSPECTION

EPA Region 6 inspector, Michael Williams, arrived at the City of Ruston Northside Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) at 10:50 a.m. on June 27, 2023, for an unannounced NPDES wastewater treatment inspection. During the opening conference, I met with Casey Jackson, Plant Manager. Mr. Jackson was informed that this was an EPA lead compliance evaluation inspection to determine compliance with the facility's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and the Clean Water Act. The scope of the inspection was with permit LA0101834, facility operations, and maintenance under the Clean Water Act. The inspection was conducted under the authority of the NPDES permit program, in accordance with the Federal CWA.

The information presented in this report is based on the materials and information supplied by the City of Ruston representatives, observations made during the inspection, and records and reports maintained by the permittee.

FACILITY DESCRIPTION

The City of Ruston-Northside Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) is a facility designed to handle a flow rate of 6 million gallons per day (6-MGD). This treatment plant employs an advanced activated sludge treatment process, which includes the utilization of dual fine screens and dual grit chambers for initial solid waste removal.

The heart of the treatment process involves three aeration basins where microorganisms break down organic matter and pollutants in the wastewater. After this treatment step, the water flows into three secondary clarifiers, allowing the solids to settle further and separate from the clarified water. Before disinfection, it undergoes additional filtration. This filtration process involves passing the effluent through a media and cloth filter. The treated water is disinfected using a UV (ultraviolet) system.

Wasted solids are directed to a single digester, where they undergo biological treatment to break down organic matter and reduce the volume of sludge. The resulting biosolids are then transported via pipes to the City's Beneficial Reuse Facility, where they can be repurposed for various applications, such as soil conditioning or fertilizer. Treated effluent is discharged into Colvin Creek. The City has a stormwater basin to divert and manage flow during heavy rain events.

Section II- Observations

This inspection revealed the following observations:

- On the day of the inspection, all operational units were in operation and no major deficiencies were noted during the inspection.
- The City of Ruston has been significantly non-compliant with two parameters, Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), and Total Sulfate since July 2020.

Section III- Areas of Concern

This inspection revealed the following areas of concern:

- The current design and treatment are not able to remove TDS and Total Sulfate from its influent.
- The City of Ruston has not sampled the influent on a continuous basis to quantify the total loading and concentration of TDS and Total Sulfate.
- The well water serving as the primary source for the city's drinking water contains both Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) and Total Sulfate. In the wells, the measured levels are approximately 80 mg/L for Sulfate and 200 mg/L for TDS.
The City of Ruston Water Treatment System (LA1061017) consistently maintains compliance with all regulatory standards, with no history of major violations. It's important to note that the permitted limit for Total Sulfate in drinking water is 250 mg/L, and the City of Ruston has been granted a significantly lower permitted level, which is only 11 mg/L for Total Sulfate.
- The City of Ruston can apply for a variance to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality to review the loading and concentration limits of Total Sulfate and TDS in their NPDES permit.
- During the visit, no other significant issues were observed or identified at the facility.

Section IV – LIST OF APPENDICES

- Appendix 1 – Photo Log

Appendix 1
City of Ruston
Photograph Log



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Photograph Log

Photo No. 1

Location: City of Ruston – Northside WWTP LA0036323		
City: Ruston	County/Parish: Lincoln	State: Louisiana





UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Photograph Log

Photo No. 2

Location: City of Ruston – Northside WWTP LA0036323		
City: Ruston	County/Parish: Lincoln	State: Louisiana





UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Photograph Log

Photo No. 3

Location: City of Ruston – Northside WWTP LA0036323		
City: Ruston	County/Parish: Lincoln	State: Louisiana





UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Photograph Log

Photo No. 4

Location: City of Ruston – Northside WWTP LA0036323		
City: Ruston	County/Parish: Lincoln	State: Louisiana





UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Photograph Log

Photo No. 5

Location: City of Ruston – Northside WWTP LA0036323		
City: Ruston	County/Parish: Lincoln	State: Louisiana





UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Photograph Log

Photo No. 6

Location: City of Ruston – Northside WWTP LA0036323		
City: Ruston	County/Parish: Lincoln	State: Louisiana





UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Photograph Log

Photo No. 7

Location: City of Ruston – Northside WWTP LA0036323		
City: Ruston	County/Parish: Lincoln	State: Louisiana

