

**Region 6 - Enforcement & Compliance Assurance Division**  
**INSPECTION REPORT**

|                                        |                                                                                                                            |                           |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Inspection Date(s):                    | January 29, 2024                                                                                                           |                           |
| Media Program:                         | Water                                                                                                                      |                           |
| Regulatory Program(s)                  | CWA - NPDES                                                                                                                |                           |
| Company Name:                          | <b>Magnolia Water Utility Operating Company LLC</b>                                                                        |                           |
| Facility Name:                         | <b>Midway Subdivision STP and Dugas Community Sewer STP</b>                                                                |                           |
| Facility Physical Location:            | Thibodaux, Lafourche Parish, Louisiana                                                                                     |                           |
| (city, state, zip code)                |                                                                                                                            |                           |
| Mailing address:                       | 1630 Des Peres RD Ste 140                                                                                                  |                           |
| (city, state, zip code)                | St. Louis, MO 63131                                                                                                        |                           |
| County/Parish:                         | Lafourche Parish                                                                                                           |                           |
| Facility Phone Number                  | 985-223-0907                                                                                                               |                           |
| Facility Contact:                      | Tim Champagne                                                                                                              | The Stat Group - Operator |
|                                        | tim@thestatgroup.com                                                                                                       |                           |
| FRS Number:                            |                                                                                                                            |                           |
| Identification/Permit Number:          | Noted in report                                                                                                            |                           |
| Media Identifier Number:               |                                                                                                                            |                           |
| NAICS:                                 |                                                                                                                            |                           |
| SIC:                                   | 4952 – Sewage Systems                                                                                                      |                           |
| Personnel participating in inspection: |                                                                                                                            |                           |
| Kenneth AuBuchon                       | EPA – R6/EN-WM                                                                                                             | Environmental Engineer    |
| Amy Shultis                            | LDEQ                                                                                                                       | Environmental Scientist   |
| Kaitlyn Tabor                          | LDEQ                                                                                                                       | Environmental Scientist   |
| Tim Champagne                          | The Stat Group                                                                                                             | Company Owner             |
| Nathan Aucoin                          | The Stat Group                                                                                                             | Regional Manager          |
|                                        |                                                                                                                            |                           |
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|                                        |                                                                                                                            |                           |
| EPA Lead Inspector<br>Signature/Date   | <b>KENNETH AUBUCHON</b> Digitally signed by KENNETH AUBUCHON<br>Date: 2024.04.05 08:59:24 -05'00'<br>Kenneth AuBuchon Date |                           |
| Supervisor<br>Signature/Date           | Roberto Bernier Date                                                                                                       |                           |

## **Section I – INTRODUCTION**

### **PURPOSE OF THE INSPECTION**

EPA REGION 6 Lead Inspector, Kenneth AuBuchon accompanied by two LDEQ Inspectors, arrived at the Midway Subdivision Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), located at the end of Midway and Eric St, Thibodaux, Louisiana, at 10:23 AM (CT) on 01/29/2024 for an unannounced inspection. EPA REGION 6 Lead Inspector presented credentials to Tim Champagne and Nathan Aucoin and informed them that this was an EPA REGION 6 inspection to determine compliance as authorized by Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 308 and implementing regulations.

It was explained that two sites were going to be reviewed. One site was the Midway Subdivision STP and the second was the Dugas Community Sewer STP. The visits were part of a review for the requested removal of STPs from the 2017 Consent Decree Modification, Civil Action No. 6:98-0687 (CD).

This report is based on information supplied by Magnolia Water Utility Operating Company LLC (Magnolia) representatives, direct observations made by the EPA REGION 6 inspector, records and reports maintained by the permittee and other information including: photographs taken by EPA REGION 6 inspector(s), physical evidence collected by the EPA REGION 6 inspector(s), measurements taken by EPA REGION 6 inspector(s), verbal or written statements made by the representatives during or subsequent to the on-site Inspection, and materials, processes, data, photographs, or documents shown, demonstrated, or submitted to the EPA REGION 6 inspector(s) by the Magnolia representatives during or subsequent to the on-site Inspection. In addition, information gathered prior to, or subsequent to, the Inspection from a review of EPA, State, and/or public records may be included in this report.

### **FACILITY DESCRIPTION**

On 11/30/2022, the Magnolia Water Utility Operating Company LLC purchased Total Environmental Solutions, Inc (TESI) and assumed the 2017 Consent Decree Modification, Civil Action No. 6:98-0687. Appendix C of the CD provides a process for removing STPs for both Mechanical STPs and Pond STPs. As part of the process, EPA will review the Final STP Report and determine whether the STP is able to maintain long-term, sustained compliance with the CWA, 33 U.S.C 1251 et seq., including the requirements of the applicable LPDES Permit.

The Stat Group, owned by Tim Champagne was hired by Magnolia to be the contracted operator at both STPs.

## **Sections II / III – OBSERVATIONS / AREAS OF CONCERN**

### **Site 1: Midway Subdivision STP (LAG540737) - 10:23 AM (CT) on 01/29/2024**

The Midway Subdivision STP (LAG540737) site is located at the end of Midway and Eric St, Thibodaux, Louisiana. The STP is a three-cell oxidation pond permitted to discharge less than 25,000 Gallons Per Day (GPD) with an estimated 43 residential customers.



All three cells were covered with duckweed as seen above. The levees between the cells were eroded and damaged see the picture below. One of the recommended repairs in the site's CDE was the 'removal of vegetation on levees of all cells, animal and erosion damage to be repaired as needed'.





Mr. Champagne explained that the only improvements conducted at the STP were the removal of trees along the fence lines, replacement of a transfer pipe, replacement of the chlorinator, and repairs made at the lift station. Requested records and/or documents to verify improvements were not received. Records were requested at the time of inspection and by follow-up email.

The site CDE has 'sludge and vegetation removal in the primary cell by dragging or dredging, and sludge disposal' as a recommended repair. Requested records and/or documents to verify completed, planned, or scheduled sludge removal were not received. Records were requested at the time of inspection and by follow-up email.

The March 30, 2023, Report on the 'Status of Collection System CDER Implementation' has the Midway STP as 'ongoing collection system evaluation for repair and improvements' with an anticipated end date of November 29, 2025. Records and/or documents for completed, planned, or scheduled repairs and improvements for the site were requested at the time of inspection and by follow-up email. Requested records and/or documents were not received.

The March 29, 2023, Report on the 'Status of Pond STP CDER Implementation' has a schedule of work to be completed at the Midway STP for the pond and collection system. Lagoon aeration improvements are anticipated to be completed by November 29, 2025. Ongoing collection system evaluations for repair and improvements are also anticipated to be completed by November 29, 2025. Records and/or documents for completed, planned, or scheduled repairs and improvements for the site were requested at the time of inspection and by follow-up email. Requested records and/or documents were not received.

The follow-up email, from March 8, 2024, requesting all records and/or documents for completed, planned, or scheduled repairs and improvements can be seen in Appendix 1. At the time of this inspection report, a response to the records request has not been received.

## **Site 2: Dugas Community Sewer STP (LAG540239) – 11:30 AM (CT) on 01/29/2024**

The Dugas Community Sewer STP (LAG540239) site is located on Parkside Drive near LA Highway 1, Lafourche Parish, Louisiana. The STP is a concrete single train activated sludge process permitted to discharge less than 25,000 Gallons Per Day (GPD). The STP has been in operation since 1990 and has an estimated 165 residential customers.



During the tour of the STP, a heavy buildup of solids was observed in the chlorine contact chamber (see picture below). It should be noted that I evaluated this STP on November 15, 2021. During that evaluation I also observed solids in the chlorine contact chamber and the discharge receiving ditch (refer to TESI – STP Site Inspections of November 15-18, 2021). Mr. Champagne explained that the system was scheduled to be replaced. Sludge wasting and hauling records were requested at the time of inspection and by follow-up email. Requested records and/or documents were not received.



Process control samples were requested at the time of the inspection and by follow-up email for the following CDE established control parameters for the Dugas STP (MLSS, SVI, 30-minute settleability, clarifier sludge blanket depth). Requested records and/or documents were not received.

***Extended Aeration Process Control Parameters and Acceptable Ranges,  
for the Dugas STP***

| <i>Parameter</i>                      | <i>Inspection value</i> | <i>Minimum Value</i> | <i>Maximum Value</i> | <i>Units</i> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| <i>Dissolved Oxygen (DO)</i>          | <i>Not provided</i>     | 2                    | 4                    | mg/L         |
| <i>MLSS</i>                           | <i>Not provided</i>     | 5,800                | 6,800                | mg/L         |
| <i>Sludge Volume Index</i>            | <i>Not provided</i>     | 75                   | 100                  | mL/g         |
| <i>30-Minute Settleability</i>        | <i>Not provided</i>     | 20%                  | 50%                  |              |
| <i>Clarifier Sludge Blanket Depth</i> | <i>Not provided</i>     | 1                    | 4                    | Ft           |

The March 30, 2023, Report on the ‘Status of Collection System CDER Implementation’ has the Dugas STP as ‘ongoing collection system evaluation for repair and improvements’ with an anticipated end date of November 29, 2025. Records and/or documents for completed, planned, or scheduled repairs and improvements for the site were requested at the time of inspection and by follow-up email. Requested records and/or documents were not received.

The March 30, 2023, Report on the ‘Status of Mechanical STP CDER Implementation’ has a schedule of work to be completed at the Dugas STP as aeration system repairs and clarifier piping repairs with an anticipated completion by November 29, 2025. Records and/or documents for completed, planned, or scheduled repairs and improvements for the site were requested at the time of inspection and by follow-up email. Requested records and/or documents were not received.

The follow-up email, from March 8, 2024, requesting all records and/or documents for completed, planned, or scheduled repairs and improvements can be seen in Appendix 1. At the time of this inspection report, a response to the records request has not been received.

#### **Section IV – FOLLOW UP**

No additional information was received by EPA after exiting the sites on 01/29/2024.

#### **Section V – LIST OF APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – E-mail sent to Mr. Champagne on March 8, 2024, re-requesting records and documents.