



DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Sarah Huckabee Sanders
GOVERNOR

Shane E. Khoury
SECRETARY

June 13, 2025

Angela Russell, Mayor
City of Tontitown
PO Box 305
Tontitown, AR 72770

Email: mayor@tontitownar.gov

Dear Mayor Russell:

The Division of Environmental Quality, Office of Water Quality, under the authority of the Arkansas Water and Air Pollution Control Act, Ark. Code Ann. § 8-4-101 *et seq.*, formally requests the City of Tontitown perform a comprehensive evaluation of the sanitary sewer collection system to assess the presence and impact of ammonia ($\text{NH}_4\text{-N}$) and ammonium hydroxide (NH_4OH) and its contribution to degradation of the collection system. The Division has received numerous complaints of potential chemical odors along the collection system from the lift station at 1836 Pianalto Road to the pumping station at Barrington Road. The Office of Water Quality has reviewed the lab reports of the leachate samples and identified ammonia concentrations that exceed 1,000 ppm. Ammonia and the compound ammonia forms when reacting with water, ammonium hydroxide, are corrosive and can cause significant damage to sewer infrastructure.

The sanitary sewer collection system evaluation plan shall be developed, stamped, and signed by a professional engineer licensed in Arkansas and include, at minimum, the following components:

1. Assessment of $\text{NH}_4\text{-N}$ and NH_4OH in the Collection System
Conduct $\text{NH}_4\text{-N}$ and NH_4OH monitoring and throughout the collection system from 1836 Pianalto Road to the pumping station at Barrington Road to quantify concentrations. Samples should be collected for analysis at the lift station at 1836 Pianalto Road, the pumping station at Barrington Road
2. Structural Condition Review
Evaluate manholes, wet wells, pipe segments and joints, and associated structures for evidence of $\text{NH}_4\text{-N}$ -induced corrosion.
3. Odor and Safety Impacts
Document and investigate any odor complaints or safety concerns in and around the sanitary sewer collection system.
4. Corrosion Mitigation Recommendations
Identify possible mechanisms or treatment to control or mitigate corrosion from $\text{NH}_4\text{-N}$ and NH_4OH . The City should also evaluate pretreatment requirements to reduce the $\text{NH}_4\text{-H}$ concentrations in the leachate discharging into the sanitary sewer collection system.
5. Structural Condition Remediation
Identify the structural components that show evidence of corrosion and develop a milestone schedule to repair or replace those affected structural components.

The comprehensive evaluation plan shall be submitted to the Office of Water Quality, for review and approval, by July 31, 2025. The evaluation plan may be submitted by email to Alan Anderson at alan.anderson@arkansas.gov.

If you have any questions or would like to schedule a meeting to discuss this formal request, please contact Alan Anderson at alan.anderson@arkansas.gov.

Sincerely,

Stacie R. Wassell
Associate Director, Office of Water Quality

cc: James Clark, Public Works Director, Tontitown, pwdirector@tontitownar.gov
Mike Neil, NACA, mneil@nwaconservation.org
Joe Martin, Office of Water Quality
Alan Anderson, Office of Water Quality
Jessica Sears, Office of Water Quality
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Will Cody, Office of Water Quality