

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

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IN THE MATTER OF )  
)  
)

) CONSENT ORDER

COLUMBIANA WATER WORKS BOARD )  
COLUMBIANA WWTP )

) NO. 02-128-CWP

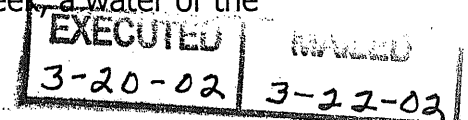
NPDES Permit No. AL0024589 )

COLUMBIANA, SHELBY COUNTY ALABAMA )  
\_\_\_\_\_)

FINDINGS

Pursuant to the provisions of the Alabama Environmental Management Act, Code of Alabama (1975), §§ 22-22A-1 through 22-22A-16, as amended, and the Alabama Water Pollution Control Act, Code of Alabama (1975), §§ 22-22-1 through 22-22-14, as amended, and the ADEM Administrative Code of Regulations (hereinafter "ADEM Admin. Code R.") promulgated pursuant thereto, and without the adjudication of any issues of fact or law and upon the consent of the parties concerned hereto, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (hereinafter "the Department") makes the following FINDINGS:

1. Columbiana Water Works Board (hereinafter "the Permittee"), operates a waste water treatment facility know as Columbiana WWTP located at 107 Mildred Street in Columbiana, Shelby County, Alabama. The waste water treatment facility discharges pollutants from a point source into Waxahatchee Creek, a water of the



state.

2. The Alabama Department of Environmental Management (the Department) is a duly constituted department of the State of Alabama pursuant to §§ 22-22A-1 through 22-22A-16, Code of Alabama 1975, as amended.

3. Pursuant to § 22-22A-4(n), Code of Alabama 1975, the Department is the state agency responsible for the promulgation and enforcement of water pollution control regulations in accordance with the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1342 *et seq.* In addition, the Department is authorized to administer and enforce the provisions of the Alabama Water Pollution Control Act, §§ 22-22-1 through 22-22-14, Code of Alabama 1975, as amended.

4. On November 30, 2000, pursuant to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, (NPDES), administered by the Department and approved by the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act § 402, 33 U.S.C. § 1342, the Department issued the Permittee's NPDES Permit Number AL0024589 (hereinafter "the Permit") which established limitations on the discharge of pollutants from such point source, designated therein as outfall number 001, into Waxahatchee Creek. The Permit requires that the Permittee monitor its discharges and submit periodic Discharge Monitoring Reports to the Department describing the results of the monitoring. The Permit also requires that the Permittee maintain in good working order all systems used by the Permittee to achieve compliance with the terms and conditions of the Permit.

5. Discharge Monitoring Reports submitted to the Department by the Permittee for the months January 2001 through January 2002 indicated that the Permittee has discharged fecal coliforms from such point source into the Waxahatchee Creek in excess of the limitations established in the NPDES permit. The number of excursions was 26 including both monthly average and daily maximum exceedances of the fecal coliform.

6. On August 2, 2001, the Department sent the Permittee a Notice of Violation for the above violations.

7. The Permittee responded to the Notice of Violation on August 24, 2001.

8. Previously, on May 3, 2000, Department inspectors observed flooding around the preliminary treatment unit during periods of hydraulic overload.

9. The Permittee neither agrees nor disagrees with the Findings presented in this Consent Order, and, in an effort to cooperate with the Department and to comply with the provisions of the Alabama Water Pollution Control Act, the Permittee has consented to the terms of this Consent Order.

10. The Department has agreed to the terms of this Consent Order in order to resolve the violations cited in this Consent Order, and the Department has determined that the terms contemplated in this Consent Order are in the best interests of the citizens of Alabama.

#### ORDER

Based on the foregoing FINDINGS and pursuant to Code of Alabama (1975), §§ 22-22A-5(10), 22-22A-5(12), 22-22A-5(18), and 22-22-9(i), , as amended, and with the consent of the Permittee, it is hereby ORDERED:

A. That, not later than 30 days after the effective date of this Consent Order, the Permittee shall pay to the Department a civil penalty in the amount of \$2,600 for the violations cited herein.

B. That, commencing immediately after receiving notice of this Consent Order, the Permittee shall comply with all the monitoring and reporting provisions and discharge limitations of NPDES Permit Number AL0024589 to the extent not inconsistent with this Order.

C. That, commencing immediately after receiving notice of this Consent Order, the Permittee shall remove fecal coliform pollutants from their discharge to the maximum extent practicable.

D. That within 90 days after the effective date of this Consent Order, the Permittee shall conduct and complete a thorough investigation of the existing treatment works and maintenance and operating procedures of the facility. The purpose of the investigation shall be to determine if any changes or additions are needed to achieve compliance with discharge limitations contained in NPDES Permit Number AL0059251 and to eliminate the flooding at the wastewater treatment plant. At a minimum, the Permittee shall consider each of the following in making that determination: the need for changes in maintenance and operating procedures, the need for modification of existing treatment works, and the need for new or

additional treatment works. Not later than 90 days after the effective date of this Consent Order, the Permittee shall submit an engineering report to the Department detailing the complete results of that investigation.

E. That, no later than 120 days after the effective date of this Consent Order, the Permittee shall prepare and submit for the Department's review and comment a Compliance Plan based upon the report referred to in paragraph C above. The compliance plan shall: 1) identify the causes of noncompliance; 2) describe the corrective measures required to achieve compliance with NPDES effluent limitations and to eliminate flooding at the waste water treatment plant, including their estimated costs and the proposed method of financing; and 3) provide an expeditious schedule for implementation of corrective actions necessary to achieve compliance with the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, Alabama Water Pollution Control Act and its NPDES Permit, subject to the Department's concurrence. A professional engineer licensed in the State of Alabama shall prepare those portions of the compliance plan referred to above which relate to the identification of the causes of noncompliance and the corrective measures required to achieve compliance and shall affix his/her seal and signature to such portions of the plan in accordance with ADEM Admin. Code Chap. 335-6-3. This Consent Order shall not exempt the Permittee from obtaining a permit modification to authorize changes in the facility if one is required by law.

F. If the Department determines through its review of the submitted Compliance Plan and engineering report plan that the Compliance Plan is not

sufficient to accomplish timely compliance with NPDES permit effluent limitations, it shall be modified so that it does accomplish timely compliance. Modifications to the Compliance Plan, if required, shall be submitted no later than 30 days after receipt of the Department's comments.

G. That the Permittee shall comply with all terms, conditions, and limitations of the permit no later than 730 days after the effective date of this Consent Order.

H. That the Permittee shall prepare and submit to the Department a progress report describing in detail the Permittee's progress towards compliance with each provision of this Consent Order on or before January 31st and July 31<sup>st</sup> of each year that the Permittee's performance of the obligations under this Consent Order remain incomplete. In addition, not later than 14 days following each applicable due date that is contained in this Consent Order, the Permittee shall submit a written notice of compliance or noncompliance with the requirements of that paragraph. Notices of noncompliance shall state the cause of noncompliance, corrective action taken, and the Permittee's ability to comply with any remaining requirements of this Consent Order.

I. That the Permittee will take all reasonably feasible interim measures or steps to minimize permit violations and to mitigate the health and environmental effects of such violations during the interim period between the effective date of this Consent Order and the completion of all scheduled corrective actions as required by this Consent Order.

J. That for every day after the effective date of this Consent Order in which

an action required by this Consent Order is not fully implemented as required by the terms of this Consent Order, the Permittee shall pay to the Department a stipulated penalty of \$100.00 per day for the first thirty (30) days. Thereafter, the penalty shall increase to \$200.00 per day for the 31st through the 60<sup>th</sup> day inclusive and \$300.00 per day for the 61<sup>st</sup> through the 90<sup>th</sup> day inclusive in which violations occur.

Payment of any stipulated penalty due under this Consent Order shall be due not later than 30 days after the due date of the action and every 30 days thereafter, if necessary. Notification to the Permittee by the Department of the assessment of any stipulated penalty is not required, and the stipulated penalty is due and payable to the Department within 30 days after the due date of the action and each 30 days thereafter, if necessary, regardless of whether demand for the stipulated penalty has been received by the Permittee.

K. That the cumulative stipulated penalties described in paragraph H above shall under no circumstances exceed \$18,000. Once stipulated penalties of \$18,000 are due to the Department and violations continue to occur, or, should violations occur after 820 days after the effective date of this Consent Order, the Department may, at its discretion, proceed either to a unilateral order revoking this Consent Order and imposing additional fines, or may proceed directly to litigation to seek additional fines and/or injunctive relief to enforce this Order in the Circuit Court of Montgomery County or other court of competent jurisdiction.

L. That all penalties due pursuant to this Order shall be made payable to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management by

certified or cashier's check and shall be remitted to:

Office of General Counsel  
Alabama Department of Environmental Management  
P.O. Box 301463  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463

M. That this Consent Order shall apply to and be binding upon both parties, their directors, officers, and all persons or entities acting under or for them. Each signatory to this Consent Order certifies that he or she is fully authorized by the party he or she represents to enter into the terms and conditions of this Consent Order, to execute the Consent Order on behalf of the party represented, and to legally bind such party.

N. That, subject to the terms of these presents and subject to provisions otherwise provided by statute, this Consent Order is intended to operate as a full resolution of the violations which are cited in this Consent Order.

O. That the Permittee is not relieved from any liability if it fails to comply with any provision of this Consent Order.

P. That, for purposes of this Consent Order only, the Permittee agrees that the Department may properly bring an action to compel compliance with the terms and conditions contained herein in a court of competent jurisdiction, including, but not limited to, Montgomery County Circuit Court, or any other court of competent jurisdiction. The Permittee also agrees that in any action brought by the Department to compel compliance with the terms of this Agreement, the Permittee shall be limited to the defenses of *Force Majeure*, compliance with this Agreement,



and physical impossibility. A *Force Majeure* is defined as any event arising from causes that are not foreseeable and are beyond the reasonable control of the Permittee, including its contractors and consultants, which could not be overcome by due diligence (i.e., causes which could have been overcome or avoided by the exercise of due diligence will not be considered to be beyond the reasonable control of the Permittee) and which delays or prevents performances by a date required by the Consent Order. Events such as unanticipated or increased costs of performance, changed economic circumstances, normal precipitation events, or failure to obtain federal, state or local permits shall not constitute *Force Majeure*. Any request for a modification of a deadline must be accompanied by the reasons (including documentation) for each extension and the proposed extension time. This information shall be submitted to the Department a minimum of 30 days prior to the original anticipated completion date. If the Department, after review of the extension request, finds the work was delayed because of conditions beyond the control and without the fault of the Permittee, the Department may extend the time as justified by the specific circumstances. The Department may also grant any other additional time extension for good cause shown but is not obligated to do so.

Q. That the sole purpose of this Consent Order is to resolve and dispose of all allegations and contentions stated herein concerning the factual circumstances referenced herein. Should additional facts and circumstances be discovered in the future concerning the facility which would constitute possible violations not addressed in this Consent Order, then such future violations shall be addressed in

Orders as may be issued by the Director, litigation initiated by the Department, or such other enforcement action as may be appropriate, and the permittee shall not object to such future orders, litigation, or enforcement action based on the issuance of this Consent Order if future Orders, litigation or other enforcement action address new matters not raised in this Consent Order.

R. It is the express purpose of the parties entering into this Consent Order to further the objectives set forth in the Alabama Water Pollution Control Act, §§ 22-22-1 through 22-22-14, Code Of Alabama 1975, as amended, and the Clean Water Act. In light of these objectives, the Permittee agrees to, inter alia, cause the expeditious implementation of the remedial measures as herein set forth and in accordance with the schedules approved by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, take all steps necessary to: (1) achieve full compliance with its NPDES permit, (2) achieve full compliance with the Alabama Water Pollution Control Act, and (3) comply with all other conditions of this Consent Order.

S. That, by agreement of the parties, this Consent Order shall be considered final and effective immediately upon signature of all parties. This Consent Order shall not be appealable, and the Permittee does hereby waive any hearing on the terms and conditions of same.

Columbiana Water Works Board



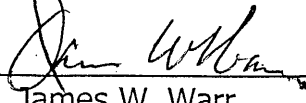
(Name of Authorized Representative)

MAYOR, CITY OF COLUMBIANA, AL

Title

Date Signed: 3/15/02

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT



James W. Warr

Director

Date Signed: 20 March 2002