

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE )  
ALLEGED DEFICIENCIES OF )           CASE NO. 9760  
THELMA ACTIVITIES, INC.    )

O R D E R

The Commission, on its own Motion, hereby orders that:

1. A hearing be and it hereby is scheduled on January 20, 1987, 10:00 a.m., Eastern Standard Time, in the Commission's Offices, Frankfort, Kentucky.

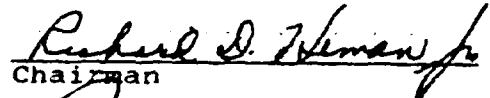
2. Thelma Activities, Inc., ("Thelma") shall appear at the hearing and show cause, if any it can, why it should not be subject to the penalties prescribed in KRS 278.990 for failure to comply with the Commission's regulations as set forth in the attached Commission staff report.

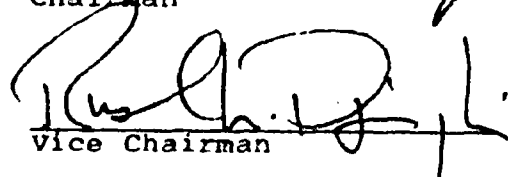
3. The report on the inspection of Thelma attached hereto as Appendix A, shall be included as a part of the record in this proceeding. A Commission staff member will be available at the hearing for cross-examination about the attached report.

4. Thelma shall also have until the close of business 2 weeks from the date of this Order to file written comments concerning the contents of Appendix A.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 14th day of November, 1986.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

  
Chairman

  
Vice Chairman

  
Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Executive Director

Commonwealth of Kentucky  
Public Service Commission

**UTILITY INSPECTION REPORT**

Thelma Activities, Inc.  
Paintsville, Kentucky

September 15, 1986

Utility operations, utility maintenance, utility management and their impact on utility services and operating costs are a primary concern of the Commission and this Division. Our ongoing inspection program is to determine if the utility is in compliance with Kentucky Revised Statutes (KRS 278), Public Service Commission (PSC) Regulations (807 KAR) and that adequate, efficient and reasonable service is being provided.

Daily maintenance, daily operations and good operating records are essential in the operation of an efficient utility. Our inspections are intended to determine if the utility is in compliance with PSC regulations in these areas.

On July 2, 1986, sewage treatment plants, one serving the Jim Hughs Estate Subdivision and one serving the Price Estates Subdivision d/b/a Thelma Activities, Inc., were inspected for compliance with KRS 278 and PSC regulation 807 KAR 5:071. Providing information and assistance during the inspection of Price Estates Subdivision Plant were James Ward and George Cook, plant operators. No person representing the utility was present at the inspection of the Jim Hughs Estates Subdivision Plant.

The improvements or corrections necessary to bring this facility into compliance with KRS 278 and PSC regulations (807 KAR) are as follows:

Price Estates

1. The diffusers need to be repaired or replaced as necessary.
2. The plant was septic. This condition should be alleviated immediately.
3. A backup blower and motor, or immediate access to one, is needed in case of an emergency.
4. A general cleanup of the plant area is needed.
5. The rapid sand filter is septic. The sludge needs to be removed from the sand filter and the media changed. The septic condition of the filter should be alleviated immediately.
6. The clarifer is septic. This problem should be alleviated immediately.
7. Black septic water is standing around the plant. This problem needs to be corrected immediately.
8. The sewage treatment process is bypassing the rapid sand filter. This needs to be corrected immediately.
9. Sludge was evident around the manhole at the plant location. This condition should be investigated to find out why the manhole overflowed and the problem corrected to prevent reoccurrence.
10. The electric line servicing the lift station on the Glen Hopson property needs to be placed in conduit for safety.
11. The lid covering the lift station on the Glen Hopson property needs to be locked down or be

enclosed by a 6 foot high chain link fence for safety.

12. The plant is currently being operated without a comminutor. As long as the plant can be operated satisfactorily and produce an acceptable effluent the Commission may not require the use of a comminutor. However, the utility must monitor plant operations and immediately install a functioning comminutor should conditions warrant.

Jim Hughs Estates

1. The diffusers in both plants need to be inspected and repaired or replaced as necessary.
2. The clarifiers in both plants need to be cleaned.
3. The bar screen needs to be cleaned.
4. The splitter box needs to be repaired and cleaned out.
5. The sand filter needs to have the media changed and all weeds removed.
6. The plant area needs to have a general cleanup (grass cut, garbage removed, etc.).
7. A backup blower and motor, or immediate access to one, is needed in case of an emergency.
8. The one existing blower that services the plant is out of service. This item needs to be repaired immediately and placed in service.
9. The plant is septic. This condition should be corrected immediately.
10. No chlorine was being applied to the sewage treatment. This condition should be corrected immediately.
11. The plant is currently being operated without a comminutor. As long as the plant can be

Report - Thelma Activities, Inc.  
Page 4  
September 15, 1986

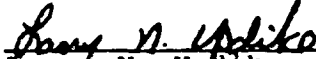
operated satisfactorily and produce an acceptable effluent the Commission may not require the use of a comminator. However, the utility must monitor plant operations and immediately install a functioning comminator should conditions warrant.

Recommendations

The repair and/or correction of the deficiencies listed in this report are required in order to restore this facility to an acceptable operating condition. Upon receipt of this report, the utility should initiate appropriate action for the repair and/or correction of each deficiency described in this report.

The deficiencies listed 3, 4, 5 and 6 in Price Estates and 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 in Jim Hughs Estates are repeated from the 1985 inspection of Thelma Activities, Inc. The utility has not corrected these deficiencies in spite of its promising to do so. It is therefore recommended that the Commission consider assessing penalties against the utility, its officers, and employees as provided by KRS 278.990.

Submitted,  
September 15, 1986

  
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Larry N. Uplike  
Utility Investigator

EBS

CGR:LNU:aem