

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

GREAT OAKS SANITATION COMPANY, INC.)
AND JORETTA C. PALMER)
) CASE NO. 92-475
)
_____)
)
ALLEGED FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH)
COMMISSION REGULATIONS)

SHOW CAUSE ORDER

Great Oaks Sanitation Company, Inc. ("Great Oaks"), a Kentucky corporation engaged in the treatment of sewage to the public, for compensation, is a utility under the jurisdiction of the Commission. KRS 278.010(3)(f). Joretta C. Palmer is the sole shareholder of Great Oaks, and serves as its president.

On March 24, 1992, a compliance inspection was made of Great Oaks' operations by the Commission's Division of Engineering. The findings of that inspection were reduced to a report, attached hereto and incorporated herein as Appendix A, and sent to the utility on March 27, 1992. Great Oaks' response to the Inspection Report, attached hereto and incorporated herein as Appendix B, was received on April 28, 1992. In its response, Great Oaks maintained that the deficiencies had been corrected or were in the process of being corrected. Great Oaks was reinspected on April 21, 1992 and September 14, 1992, and reports made, attached hereto and incorporated herein as Appendix C and Appendix D.

Great Oaks was cited in the March 24, 1992 Inspection Report for eleven specific deficiencies. Although Great Oaks claimed in its April 28, 1992 response that all deficiencies were corrected or were in the process of being corrected, the reinspection report of September 14, 1992 found that only one of the deficiencies had been corrected.

KRS 278.080 authorizes the Commission to prescribe rules for the performance of any service furnished or supplied by a utility. Commission Regulation 807 KAR 5:071, Section 7(1), of which numerous alleged violations are contained in Appendices A, C, and D, sets forth requirements for the operation, maintenance, and treatment of sewage by sewer utilities.

The Commission finds from Appendices A, B, C, and D that a prima facie showing has been made that Great Oaks and Joretta C. Palmer have violated provisions of 807 KAR 5:071, Section 7(1), by failing to adhere to Commission requirements governing the operation and maintenance of sewer utilities in compliance with the requirements of Commission regulations.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

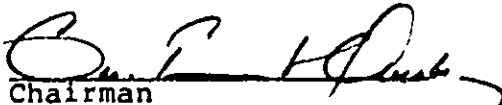
1. Joretta C. Palmer, on her own behalf and on behalf of Great Oaks, shall by written response to the allegations contained herein show cause why she should not be penalized pursuant to KRS 278.990(1) for failing to comply with 807 KAR 5:071, Section 7(1). Said written response shall be filed with the Commission no later than 30 days from the date of this Order.

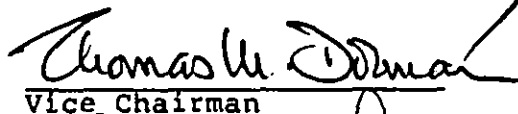
2. Joretta C. Palmer, individually and on behalf of Great Oaks, shall appear at an informal conference scheduled for January 13, 1993, at 10:00 a.m., Eastern Standard Time, in Conference Room 1 of the Commission's offices at 730 Schenkel Lane, Frankfort, Kentucky, and shall bring an employee and/or officer familiar with the allegations contained herein.

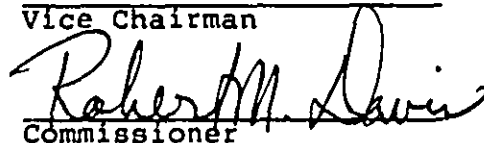
3. Joretta C. Palmer, individually and on behalf of Great Oaks, shall appear at a hearing scheduled for January 27, 1993, at 10:00 a.m., Eastern Standard Time, in Hearing Room 1 of the Commission's offices at 730 Schenkel Lane, Frankfort, Kentucky, to show cause, if any she can, why she should not be penalized pursuant to KRS 278.990(1) for failing to comply with Commission regulations.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 11th day of November, 1992.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Chairman


Vice Chairman


Commissioner

ATTEST:


Executive Director

Commonwealth of Kentucky
Public Service Commission

UTILITY INSPECTION REPORT

Great Oaks Sanitation Company, Inc.
Eddyville, Kentucky

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 Chapter 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 March 24, 1992, Great Oaks Sanitation Company, Inc. sewage treatment system was inspected for compliance with KRS Chapter 278 and PSC regulations (807 KAR). This utility consists of a wastewater treatment plant and a collection system. This system is located in McCracken County and has approximately 104 customers. Providing information and assistance during the inspection was Patrick Clark, customer and maintenance man.

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

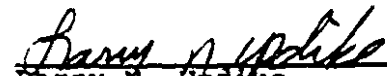
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Company, Inc.
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1. The diffusers need to be inspected and repaired or replaced as necessary. (807 KAR 5:071, Section 7,1)
2. The scum behind the baffle in the clarifier needs to be removed. (807 KAR 5:071, Section 7,1)
3. The skimmer on the left side of the clarifier needs to be repaired and placed in service. (807 KAR 5:071, Section 7,1)
4. The septic condition of the clarifier needs to be alleviated. (807 KAR 5:071, Section 7,1)
5. The septic condition of the aeration tank needs to be alleviated. (807 KAR 5:071, Section 7,1)
6. The existing blower/motor unit now in operation is not large enough to furnish the proper amount of air to operate the diffusers, the skimmers and the sludge returns. (807 KAR 5:071, Section 7,1)
7. The backup blower/motor unit needs to be repaired and placed in service. (807 KAR 5:071, Section 7,1)
8. The sludge return on the left side needs to be made operational. (807 KAR 5:071, Section 7,1)
9. The two pumps in the lift station at the plant need to be repaired and placed in operation. (807 KAR 5:071, Section 7,1)
10. The tertiary unit needs to be placed in operation. (807 KAR 5:071, Section 7,1)
11. An on-site alarm system is needed for the lift station at the plant. (807 KAR 5:071, Section 7,1)

Recommendations

The repair or correction of the deficiencies listed above is necessary in order to restore this facility to an acceptable operating condition. The pertinent section of the Kentucky Administrative Regulations has been listed by each deficiency for your convenience. A written response should be prepared and forwarded to the Commission by April 27, 1992, outlining a correction schedule stating what has been completed or what will be done to correct each deficiency and the related cost of each correction. A starting date and a completion date should be given for corrections.

Submitted,
March 27, 1992


Larry N. Updyke
Utility Investigator

415

CGR:LNU:aem

Commonwealth of Kentucky
Public Service Commission

UTILITY REINSPECTION REPORT

Great Oaks Sanitation Company, Inc.
Eddyville, Kentucky

On April 21, 1992, a reinspection of Great Oaks Sanitation Company, Inc. was conducted. The purpose of the inspection was to see what progress, if any, had been made to date on the improvements needed to bring this facility into compliance with Public Service Commission regulation 807 KAR 5:071, Section 7(1) and KRS 278. During the reinspection it was found that the improvements or corrections necessary to bring this facility into compliance as stated in the March 27, 1992 inspection report and their current status are as follows:

1. The diffusers need to be inspected and repaired or replaced as necessary. (807 KAR 5:071, Section 7,1)

Current Status: Is still needed.

2. The scum behind the baffle in the clarifier needs to be removed. (807 KAR 5:071, Section 7,1)

Current Status: Is still needed.

3. The skimmer on the left side of the clarifier needs to be repaired and placed in service. (807 KAR 5:071, Section 7,1)

Current Status: Skimmer is still not operational.

4. The septic condition of the clarifier needs to be alleviated. (807 KAR 5:071, Section 7,1)

Current Status: Septic condition still needs to be alleviated.

5. The septic condition of the aeration tank needs to be alleviated. (807 KAR 5:071, Section 7,1)

Current Status: Septic condition still needs to be alleviated.

6. The existing blower/motor unit now in operation is not large enough to furnish the proper amount of air to operate the diffusers, the skimmers and the sludge returns. (807 KAR 5:071, Section 7,1)

Current Status: Condition was the same.

7. The backup blower/motor unit needs to be repaired and placed in service. (807 KAR 5:071, Section 7,1)

Current Status: Still needs to be repaired.

8. The sludge return on the left side needs to be made operational. (807 KAR 5:071, Section 7,1)

Current Status: Still needs to be repaired.

9. The two pumps in the lift station at the plant need to be repaired and placed in operation. (807 KAR 5:071, Section 7,1)

Current Status: The #1 pump is operating but not at full capacity and the #2 pump still needs to be repaired or replaced.

10. The tertiary unit needs to be placed in operation. (807 KAR 5:071, Section 7,1)

Current Status: Still needs to be placed in operation.

11. An on-site alarm system is needed for the lift station at the plant. (807 KAR 5:071, Section 7,1)

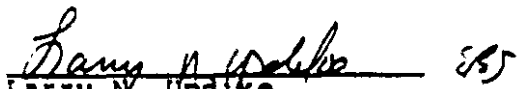
Current Status: Is still needed.

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In addition the sludge wasting trough needs to be cleaned out.

The existing conditions at the treatment plant still violates the Public Service Commission regulations 907 KAR 5:071, Section 7)1).

Submitted,
April 27, 1992


Larry N. Updike
Utility Investigator

CGR:LNU:aem



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
710 SCHENKEL LANE
POST OFFICE BOX 615
FRANKFORT, KY 40602
(502) 564-1940

April 29, 1992

Ms. Joretta C. Palmer
President
Great Oaks Sanitation Company, Inc.
Route 2, Box 253-C
Eddyville, Kentucky 42038

Dear Ms. Palmer:

The Public Service Commission is in receipt of your reply to the inspection report dated March 27, 1992. We look forward to seeing these changes on our next inspection.

Should you have any questions or comments, please feel free to call Larry N. Updike at (502) 564-7590.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Eddie B. Smith".

Eddie B. Smith, Manager
Water & Sewer Branch
Division of Utility Engineering
& Services

EBS:LNU:aem

Great Oaks Sanitation Co., Inc.

Route #2 - Box 253-C
Eddyville, KY 42038
(502) 388-0146

April 25, 1992

RECEIVED
APR 25 1992
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Eddie B. Smith, Manager
Water & Sewer Branch
Public Service Commission
P. O. Box 615
Frankfort, KY 40602

Dear Mr. Smith:

This letter is written in response to your letter dated March 27, 1992, regarding Mr. Larry Updike's inspection of Great Oaks Sanitation Company, Inc. and his subsequent recommendations or corrections.

1. The diffusers need to be inspected and repaired or replaced as necessary.

Response: The diffusers are routinely inspected and repaired as necessary.

2. The scum behind the baffle in the clarifier needs to be removed.

Response: The scum behind the baffle has been removed.

3. The skimmer on the left side needs to be repaired.

Response: The skimmer on the left side has been repaired.

4. The septic condition of the clarifier needs to be alleviated.

Response: The only way this problem can be alleviated is to replace the non-functioning blower/motor. We have purchased a used compressor and motor and are in the process of having it installed.

Responses to 5, 6, 7 and 8 are answered in response to item 4.

9. The two pumps in the lift station at the plant need to be repaired and placed in operation.

Response: They are in operation, but not working properly. We are in the process of having this problem corrected.

10. The tertiary unit needs to be placed in operation.

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Response: EPA has told us that it does not have to function until we have more houses hooked on as long as the monthly water samples are in compliance with our permit.

11. An on-site alarm system is needed for the lift station at the plant.

Response: Even if there were an audible and visual alarm, it wouldn't be seen or heard by anyone in the subdivision as the treatment plant site is too far away. Inspection of the water level in the lift station is part of the routine maintenance at the plant.

If there are any questions regarding the above responses, please advise.

Very truly yours,



Joretta C. Palmer, President
Great Oaks Sanitation Company, Inc.

JCP:te

Commonwealth of Kentucky
Public Service Commission

UTILITY REINSPECTION REPORT

Great Oaks Sanitation Company, Inc.
Eddyville, Kentucky

On September 14, 1992, a reinspection of Great Oaks Sanitation Company, Inc. was conducted. The purpose of the inspection was to see what progress, if any, had been made to date on the improvements needed to bring this facility into compliance with Public Service Commission regulation 807 KAR 5:071, Section 7(1) and KRS 278. During the reinspection it was found that the improvements or corrections necessary to bring this facility into compliance as stated in the March 27, 1992 inspection report and the April 21, 1992 inspection report and their current status are as follows:

1. The diffusers need to be inspected and repaired or replaced as necessary. (807 KAR 5:071, Section 7,1)

Current Status: Is still needed.

2. The scum behind the baffle in the clarifier needs to be removed. (807 KAR 5:071, Section 7,1)

Current Status: Is still needed.

3. The skimmer on the left side of the clarifier needs to be repaired and placed in service. (807 KAR 5:071, Section 7,1)

Current Status: Skimmer is still not operational.

4. The septic condition of the clarifier needs to be alleviated. (807 KAR 5:071, Section 7,1)

Current Status: Septic condition still needs to be alleviated.

5. The septic condition of the aeration tank needs to be alleviated. (807 KAR 5:071, Section 7,1)

Current Status: The septic condition of the aeration tank has improved but still needs to be closely monitored.

6. The existing blower/motor unit now in operation is not large enough to furnish the proper amount of air to operate the diffusers, the skimmers and the sludge returns. (807 KAR 5:071, Section 7,1)

Current Status: Condition remains unchanged.

7. The backup blower/motor unit needs to be repaired and placed in service. (807 KAR 5:071, Section 7,1)

Current Status: This unit has been repaired and placed in service.

8. The sludge return on the left side needs to be made operational. (807 KAR 5:071, Section 7,1)

Current Status: Still needs to be repaired.

9. The two pumps in the lift station at the plant need to be repaired and placed in operation. (807 KAR 5:071, Section 7,1)

Current Status: Both No. 1 pump and No. 2 pump still need to be repaired or replaced.

10. The tertiary unit needs to be placed in operation. (807 KAR 5:071, Section 7,1)

Current Status: Still needs to be placed in operation.

11. An on-site alarm system is needed for the lift station at the plant. (807 KAR 5:071, Section 7,1)

Current Status: Is still needed.

In addition the sludge wasting trough needs to be cleaned out.

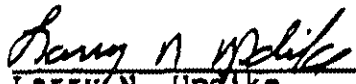
The current status of the deficiency noted in the last paragraph is as follows:

- 1A. The sludge wasting trough needs to be cleaned out.

Current Status: The sludge wasting trough still needs to be cleaned out.

The existing conditions at the treatment plant still violates the Public Service Commission regulations 907 KAR 5:071, Section 7(1).

Submitted,
October 9, 1992



Larry N. Updike
Utility Investigator

EB

CGR:LNU:aem