

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

IN THE MATTER OF  
THE VILLAGE OF ALEXANDRIA,  
Respondent.

Case No. 3129  
COMPLAINT, COMPLIANCE ORDER, AND  
NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR  
HEARING

1. This Complaint, Compliance Order, and Notice of Opportunity for Hearing is issued pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-1507(1) of the Nebraska Environmental Protection Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 81-1501 to -1532 (2008). The Complainant is Michael J. Linder, Director of the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality ("NDEQ" or "Department"). The Respondent is the Village of Alexandria, Thayer County, a body corporate and politic, as provided in the laws of Nebraska.
2. The Complainant, NDEQ, is the agency of the state of Nebraska charged with the duty, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-1504(1) & (4) (2008), of exercising exclusive general supervision, administration, and enforcement of the Nebraska Environmental Protection Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 81-1501 to -1532, and all rules, regulations, and permits promulgated thereunder. The authority of NDEQ to require compliance measures is expressed in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-1504 (7) and § 81-1507 (2008).
3. The Respondent owns and operates a system for collection and treatment of wastewater in Thayer County, Nebraska, consisting of a sewer system and a lagoon treatment system.
4. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-1502(10) (Reissue 2008) is in effect at all times material herein and defines Respondent as a "person."
5. Nebraska Administrative Code Title 119, *Rules And Regulations Pertaining To The Issuance Of Permits Under The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System*, was promulgated pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-1505. Pursuant to Title 119, the Complainant issued the Respondent a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit on June 4, 2007 that became effective on July 1, 2007. The permit, number NE0029238 (hereinafter "Permit") is in effect at all times material herein. Part



II. Of the Permit is entitled “Discharge Limitations and Monitoring Requirements” and provides discharge limits for pollutants including Carbonaceous Biochemical Oxygen Demand (CBOD), Total Suspended Solids (TSS), pH, and Fecal Coliform.

6. Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-1506(2)(c) makes it unlawful for any person to “increase in volume or strength any waste in excess of permitted discharges specified under any existing permit.” Title 119, Chapter 14, 001.01 further states that “[t]he permittee must comply with all conditions of the permit. Any permit noncompliance constitutes a violation of the Federal and State Act and is grounds for enforcement action; for permit termination, revocation and reissuance, or modification; or denial of a permit renewal application.”

7. According to Part II. A. of the Permit, the effluent limit for the 30-day average for 5-day carbonaceous biochemical demand (CBOD<sub>5</sub>) is 25 milligrams per liter (mg/l). The Respondent discharged effluent that exceeded this limit during the months of July and October of 2010 as well as January through September and December of 2011. The Permit lists the limit for the 7-day average of CBOD<sub>5</sub> as 40 mg/l. The Respondent exceeded this limit during the months of February, March, April, May, July, September, and December 2011.

8. According to Part II. A. of the Permit, the effluent limit for the 30-day average for Total Suspended Solids (TSS) is 80 milligrams per liter. The Respondent discharged effluent that exceeded this limit during the months of August and December of 2011.

9. According to Part II. A. of the Permit, the pH of the effluent must be between 6.5 and 9.0. The Respondent discharged effluent that fell outside of this range during the months of August and September of 2010.

10. According to Part II. B. of the Permit, the effluent limit for the 30-day average for Fecal Coliform is 200 Colony Forming Units (CFU) per 100 milliliters (mL) of effluent. The Respondent discharged effluent that exceeded this limit during the months of July through September of 2010 as well as May through September of 2011. The Permit lists the limit for a daily maximum of Fecal Coliform as 400 CFU/mL. The Respondent discharged effluent that exceeded this limit during the months of June through September of 2010 as well as May through September of 2011.

11. The Director finds that respondent has violated its permit, thereby violating Title 119 and Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-1506(2)(c).

12. The Director of the NDEQ is authorized pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-1504(7) to issue this order requiring the modification of the wastewater treatment facility as necessary to prevent, control, or abate pollution.

### COMPLIANCE ORDER

13. IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Respondent shall perform, within the following time frames, the following activities:

- a. On or before October 1, 2012, complete flow monitoring and sanitary sewer collection system improvements.
- b. On or before March 1, 2013, the Respondent shall complete and submit to the NDEQ for approval design and specifications for an upgrade to the Wastewater Treatment Facility that will routinely produce an effluent discharge that will meet secondary standards for CBOD, TSS, pH, and fecal coliform, as well as all other permit conditions.
- c. On or before January 1, 2014, the Respondent shall complete construction based on the approved design and specifications and shall operate the Wastewater Treatment Facility in compliance with secondary standards for CBOD, TSS, pH, and Fecal Coliform as well as all other conditions of its permit, Title 119, and all other relevant rules and regulations.
- d. Beginning October 1, 2012, and every 6 months until construction is completed, Respondent shall submit a progress report to the Department summarizing the status of compliance with this schedule.

14. Information to be submitted under this Order shall be sent to:

Steve Goans  
Water Quality Division  
Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 98922  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-8922  
Telephone number: (402) 471-2186

#### IV. NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO REQUEST A HEARING

15. This Order shall become final, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-1507(1), unless Respondent files an answer and requests, in writing, a hearing no later than thirty days after receipt of this Order. Failure to answer within thirty days shall be deemed an admission of the allegations of the Complaint.

16. A written answer to the Complaint, Compliance Order and Notice of Opportunity for Hearing must conform to the requirements of Title 115, Neb. Admin. Code, Rules of Practice and Procedure, Chapter 7. The answer and request for hearing may be filed by mail to:

Michael J. Linder, Director  
Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 98922  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-8922

or may be delivered to the Department's Lincoln office located at 1200 N Street, Suite 400, Lincoln, Nebraska.

#### V. SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE

17. Whether or not Respondent requests a hearing, an informal settlement conference may be requested by writing to Lydia Fiedler, Attorney, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 98922, Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-8922, or have your attorney make such a request.

18. A request for settlement conference does not extend the thirty (30) day period during which a written answer and request for hearing must be submitted or otherwise delay the final effective date of this Order.


#### VI. INJUNCTIVE RELIEF AND PENALTY PROVISIONS

19. The NDEQ reserves the right to pursue enforcement in the proper court of law for injunctive relief or to seek civil or criminal penalties for any violations that are

the subject of this Complaint, Compliance Order and Notice of Opportunity for Hearing. Nothing in this Complaint, Compliance Order and Notice of Opportunity for Hearing precludes the NDEQ from pursuing such enforcement. Failure to obey this order may result in fine up to \$10,000 per day as set out in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-1508.02.

August 14 2012

Date



Michael J. Linder, Director  
NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Complaint, Compliance Order and Notice of Opportunity for Hearing, with attachments, was served by certified United States mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested this 14<sup>th</sup> day of August 2012 upon the Respondent listed below:

Ms. Margie Durflinger, Chairperson  
Alexandria Village Board  
P.O. Box 64  
Alexandria, Nebraska 68303-0065



Lydia Fiedler  
Attorney