



TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION
ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD OFFICE

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MTB ✓
AMY 12-12-12
WEC 1-3-13
RC
Fee: Englewood
STP-2012
(McMinn)

December 11, 2012

CERTIFIED MAIL

7008 1830 0000 2153 1744

Mr. James Cox
Everlasting Baptist Church
PO Box 103
Englewood, TN 37329

Re: Complaint of Sewer Overflow
Everlasting Baptist Church
311 South Amherst
McMinn County, Tennessee

Dear Mr. Cox:

On August 10, 2012, Mr. Michael Bascom of my staff investigated a complaint of a back-flow of sewage into Everlasting Baptist Church where he met with yourself and Mr. Tony Hawn, two of the church's trustees, who provided information on the problem.

Mr. Cox stated that, after a rain event, sewage overflowed from a basement bathroom toilet and discharged sewage into the bathroom and the basement of the church. At the time of investigation, Mr. Bascom observed the basement bathroom where the back-flow occurred. He also observed that the bathroom and basement had been cleaned-up and fans were operating. Mr. Hawn stated that all of the carpet had to be removed following a previous back-flow. Mr. Hawn and Mr. Cox stated that the sewer outside the church has overflowed 6 -7 times, usually after a rain event, in the past year and sewage has back-flowed into the church several times during this same period. Mr. Cox and Mr. Hawn stated that Englewood's Town Manager, Mr. Bob Cass and Mayor Raymond Roach were aware of the problem.

After speaking with Mr. Cox, Mr. Bascom drove to Englewood's Town Hall and met with Bob Cass. Mr. Cass stated he was aware of the problem and had ordered a back-flow preventer but he had to get the city's back hoe repaired before he could install it. Mr. Bascom explained that sanitary sewer overflows (SSO) are a violation of the Englewood

Everlasting Baptist Church
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Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) NPDES permit and that the backflow preventer must be installed as soon as possible. Whereupon, Mr. Bob Cass stated he would install a backflow preventer at the location outside the church within 30 days.

Upon returning to the office, Mr. Bascom reviewed two years of Englewood STP's Daily Monitoring Reports (DMR) which documented that the Town of Englewood had experienced 63 SSOs during the period of August 2011 – July 2012. SSOs following a rain event are predominantly caused by surface water flowing into the sewer system and/or infiltration into the collection system. According to this data, the Town of Englewood's collection system has a chronic inflow and infiltration problem.

On September 20, 2012, Michael Bascom and Angela Young of my staff visited Everlasting Baptist Church again and Mr. James Cox stated that the preventer had still not been installed. Mr. Bascom and Ms. Young then spoke with the new mayor, Tony Hawn, who stated that they had the part but the personnel who could install it were not available. The back-flow preventer was later installed during the first week of October.

It is also important to note that the sewage was discharged into an area of the facility where seniors and children attend classes. This poses a significant human health risk to members of the church and especially to children and seniors who are more susceptible to infection and disease. This letter provides a record of the August 10, 2012 complaint investigation and September 20, 2012 meeting with Mr. James Cox.

If you have any questions concerning either our inspection or this report, please contact Mr. Bascom at (423) 634-5710.

Sincerely,



Richard D. Urban, Ph.D.
Field Office Manager, Division of Water Resources
Chattanooga Environmental Field Office

Cc: Honorable Tony Hawn, Town of Englewood