



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES
William R. Snodgrass – Tennessee Tower
312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, 11th Floor
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-1102

June 30, 2020

The Honorable Joyce Brown
Mayor
301 East Cumberland Street
P.O. Box 338
Cowan, TN 37318
e-copy: cowanwater@comcast.net

**Re: Tennessee Plant Optimization Program – Pilot Round 3
TN0026144, City of Cowan, Franklin County**

Dear Mayor Brown,

We are so excited to welcome you to the third round of our Plant Optimization Pilot Studies. Over the last few years, a number of wastewater treatment plants in Tennessee have been successful in improving energy efficiency while reducing the amount of nutrients they discharge to streams, and we look forward to working with you this year to see what your wastewater treatment plant will be able to achieve. As the population grows, cities across the country have seen negative impacts from increased nutrient loading to our streams. This includes harmful algal blooms which can be disastrous to a drinking water supply. We believe that optimization for nutrient removal is a common-sense and cost-effective way to reduce nutrients for many wastewater treatment plants, and we commend you for joining this effort.

The goal of this project is to provide technical assistance and training for plant optimization. We have contracted with Tennessee Association of Utility Districts (TAUD) to provide technical assistance in leading the optimization process at your wastewater treatment plant. Training materials and various resources are available on our Tennessee Plant Optimization (TNPOP) website. We also loan out testing equipment for use by the pilot facilities. In the first two rounds of pilots we developed training materials for Tennessee and worked closely with several volunteer facilities. The most notable results were realized in Cookeville, Athens and Norris. In fact, in addition to reductions in nutrients, these cities have opportunities to save money, Cookeville and Norris from reduced energy cost and Athens by eliminating entirely the need for chemical addition.

With this third round of plant optimization pilots, up to five facilities across the state will be working with TAUD staff and our division staff. As a selected facility, your wastewater treatment plant operators will be learning about the foundations of biological nutrient removal and spend a year on nutrient removal process monitoring and energy optimization.

Thank you for volunteering to participate in this round of the plant optimization studies. We look forward to working with you and your team, and again, we applaud you for taking this important step in a study that we believe has the potential to be valuable in many ways for your organization.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Peters Dodd
Director
Division of Water Resources

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