



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

July 11, 2018

Mr. John Joiner
Chairman
Big Valley Campground, Inc.
e-copy: johnmjoiner@comcast.net
7056 E. Lamar Alexander Parkway
Townsend, TN 37882

Subject: **Draft of State Operating Permit No. SOP-96038**
Big Valley Campground, Inc.
Townsend, Blount County, Tennessee

Dear Mr. Joiner:

Enclosed please find one copy of the draft state operating permit, which the Division of Water Resources (the division) proposes to issue. The issuance of this permit is contingent upon your meeting all of the requirements of the Tennessee Water Quality Control Act and the rules and regulations of the Tennessee Water Quality, Oil and Gas Board.

If you disagree with the provisions and requirements contained in the draft permit, you have thirty (30) days from the date of this correspondence to notify the division of your objections. If your objections cannot be resolved, you may appeal the issuance of this permit. This appeal should be filed in accordance with Section 69-3-110, Tennessee Code Annotated.

If you have questions, please contact the Knoxville Environmental Field Office at 1-888-891-TDEC; or, at this office, please contact Mr. Jack Beach at (615) 532-0623 or by E-mail at Jack.Beach@tn.gov.

Sincerely,

Vojin Janjić
Manager, Water-Based Systems

Enclosure

cc: Permit File
Knoxville Environmental Field Office
Randy Daniels, Mr., Board Member, , raydan80@yahoo.com
Mr. Chris Hamrick, Chief Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator, City of Maryville, clhamrick@maryville-tn.gov



**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

Permit No SOP-96038

**PERMIT
For the operation of Wastewater Treatment Facilities**

In accordance with the provision of Tennessee Code Annotated section 69-3-108 and Regulations promulgated pursuant thereto:

PERMISSION IS HEREBY GRANTED TO

Big Valley Campground, Inc.
Townsend, Blount County, Tennessee

FOR THE OPERATION OF

A holding tank/haul system to dispose of domestic wastewater from a facility located at latitude 35.679722 and longitude -83.79, in Blount County, Tennessee.

This permit is issued as a result of the application filed on June 11, 2018, in the office of the Tennessee Division of Water Resources and in conformity with approved plans, specifications and other data submitted to the Department in support of the above application, all of which are filed with and considered as a part of this permit, together with the following named conditions and requirements.

This permit shall become effective on:

This permit shall expire on:

Issuance date:

for Jennifer Dodd
Director
RDA 2366

This permit allows the operation of a holding tank/haul system to dispose of domestic wastewater at the above described location. The result of this system is that there is no discharge of wastewater to a surface stream and no contamination of any subsurface waters.

The system must be constructed, maintained and operated in accordance with plans and specifications approved by the Division of Water Resources.

The permittee must provide for wastewater to be pumped from this system on a regular schedule sufficient to ensure that a reasonable margin of safety is provided against the possibility of an overflow. Records of when pumping takes place must be kept at the facility for review by the Division of Water Resources over the entire life of this system. Monthly operation reports will be submitted to Division of Water Resources, Knoxville Environmental Field Office, 3711 Middlebrook Pike, Knoxville, TN 37921, giving pumping dates and volume of waste pumped on each trip. Reports shall also include the liquid level in the tank prior to each pumping, in terms of the volume of capacity remaining. Pumping frequencies should be sufficient to ensure that the tank remains below 3/4 full, in terms of volume capacity, at all times. Reports shall be submitted by the 15th day of the month following data collection.

A representative of the owner or the sewage hauling contractor must be present at all times during the pumping of sewage from this system and must visually monitor the transfer operation to ensure that no spillage occurs.

The owner or the sewage hauling contractor must clean up any spillage of sewage that results from this operation of this system. Residuals should be treated with lime.

It is the owner's responsibility to ensure that the sewage hauling contractor performs all work relative to this system in accordance with this permit and good operating procedures.

Any disposal must be at the City of Maryville STP .

Notwithstanding this permit, the permittee shall remain liable for any damages sustained by the State of Tennessee, including but not limited to fish kills and losses of aquatic life and/or wildlife, as a result of the discharge of wastewater to any surface or subsurface waters. Additionally, it shall be the responsibility of the permittee to conduct its wastewater treatment and/or disposal activities in a manner such that public or private health hazards or nuisances will not be created.

This permit is subject, at any time, to review by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Division of Water Resources.

Schedule of Compliance

Within thirty (30) days of the availability of public sewers at this site, the use of the holding tank/haul system will be discontinued. The tank will be emptied (with proper disposal of contents), cleaned and removed from the site.

Placement of Signs

The permittee shall place a sign at all approaches to the holding tanks. The sign should be clearly visible to the public. The minimum sign size should be two feet by two feet (2' x 2') with one inch (1") letters. The sign should be made of durable material and have a white background with black letters.

<p style="text-align:center">HOLDING TANKS SANITARY WASTEWATER (PERMITTEE'S NAME) (PERMITTEE'S PHONE NUMBER) TENNESSEE DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE CENTER - Knoxville PHONE NUMBER: 1-888-891-8332</p>
--

PART II

A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Duty to Reapply

Permittee is not authorized to operate after the expiration date of this permit. In order to receive authorization to operate beyond the expiration date, the permittee shall submit such information and forms as are required to the Director no later than 180 days prior to the expiration date.

2. Right of Entry

The permittee shall allow Director of the Division of Water Resources, or authorized representatives, upon the presentation of credentials:

- a. To enter upon the permittee's premises where an effluent source is located or where records are required to be kept under the terms and conditions of this permit, and at reasonable times to copy these records;
- b. To inspect at reasonable times any monitoring equipment or method or any collection, transport, treatment, pollution management, or discharge facilities required under this permit; and
- c. To sample at reasonable times any discharge of pollutants.

3. Availability of Reports

All reports prepared in accordance with the terms of this permit shall be available for public inspection at the offices of the Division of Water Resources. All reports and data shall be kept for minimum of three years.

4. Proper Operation and Maintenance

The permittee shall at all times properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems (and related appurtenances) for collection and treatment which are installed or used by the permittee to achieve compliance with the terms and conditions of this permit. This provision requires the operation of backup or auxiliary facilities or similar systems which are installed by a permittee only when the operation is necessary to achieve compliance with the conditions of the permit.

5. Property Rights

The issuance of this permit does not convey any property rights in either real or personal property, or any exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize any injury to private property or any invasion of personal rights, nor any infringement of Federal, State, or local laws or regulations.

6. Severability

The provisions of this permit are severable. If any provision of this permit, or the application of any provision of this permit to any circumstance, is held invalid, then the application of such provision to other circumstances and to the remainder of this permit shall not be affected thereby.

7. Other Information

If the permittee becomes aware that he failed to submit any relevant facts in a permit application, or submitted incorrect information in a permit application or in any report to the Director, then he shall promptly submit such facts or information.

B. CHANGES AFFECTING THE PERMIT

1. Permit Modification, Revocation, or Termination

- a. This permit may be modified, revoked and reissued, or terminated for cause as described in Tennessee Code Annotated 69-3-108(f).
- b. The permittee shall furnish to the Director or his representative, within a reasonable time, any information which may be requested to determine whether cause exists for modifying, revoking and reissuing, or terminating this permit. The permittee shall also furnish to the Director, upon request, copies of records required to be kept by this permit.

2. Change of Ownership

This permit may be transferred to another person only for operation of the sewerage sstem to service recreational rental activities if:

- a. The permittee notifies the Director of the proposed transfer at least 30 days in advance of the proposed transfer date;

- b. The notice includes a written agreement between the existing and the new permittees containing a specified date for transfer of permit responsibility, coverage, and liability between them; and
 - c. The Director, within 30 days, does not notify the current permittee and the new permittee of his intent to modify, revoke and reissue, or terminate the permit and to require that a new application be filed rather than agreeing to the transfer of the permit.
3. Change of Mailing Address

The permittee shall promptly provide to the Director written notice of any change of mailing address. In the absence of such notice the original address of the permittee will be assumed to be correct.

C. NONCOMPLIANCE

1. Effect of Noncompliance

All discharges shall be consistent with the terms and conditions of this permit. Any permit noncompliance constitutes a violation of applicable State and Federal laws and is grounds for enforcement action, permit termination, permit modification, or denial of permit reissuance.

2. Reporting of Noncompliance

a. 24-Hour Reporting

In the case of any noncompliance which would cause a threat to public drinking supplies, or any other discharge which could constitute a threat to human health or the environment, the required notice of noncompliance shall be provided to the appropriate Division Environmental Assistance Center within 24 hours from the time the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances. (The Environmental Field Office should be contacted for names and phone numbers of emergency response personnel.)

A written submission must be provided within five days of the time the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances unless this requirement is waived by the Director on a case-by-case basis. The permittee shall provide the Director with the following information:

- i. A description of the discharge and cause of noncompliance;
- ii. The period of noncompliance, including exact dates and times or, if not corrected, the anticipated time the noncompliance is expected to continue; and
- iii. The steps being taken to reduce, eliminate, and prevent recurrence of the noncomplying discharge.

This written notice shall not be considered as excusing or justifying the failure to comply with this permit.

This noncompliance shall also be reported on the Quarterly Report. The details may be incorporated by referenced to the written five-day notification.

b. Scheduled Reporting

For instances of noncompliance which are not reported under subparagraph 2. a. above, the permittee shall report the noncompliance on the Quarterly Report. The report shall contain all information concerning the steps taken, or planned, to reduce, eliminate, and prevent recurrence of the violation and the anticipated time the violation is expected to continue.

3. Overflow

a. Sanitary sewer overflows, including dry-weather overflows, are prohibited.

b. The permittee shall operate the collection system so as to avoid sanitary sewer overflows and releases due to improper operation or maintenance. A “release” may be due to improper operation or maintenance of the collection system or may be due to other cause(s). Releases caused by improper operation or maintenance of the permittee’s collection and transmission system are prohibited.

c. The permittee shall take all reasonable steps to minimize any adverse impact associated with releases.

d. No new or additional flows shall be added upstream of any point in the collection or transmission system that experiences chronic sanitary sewer overflows or releases (greater than 5 overflows plus releases per year) or would otherwise overload any portion of the system. Unless there is specific enforcement action to the contrary, the permittee is relieved of this requirement after: 1) an authorized representative of the Commissioner of the Department of Environment and Conservation has approved an engineering report and construction plans and specifications prepared in accordance with accepted engineering practices for correction of the problem; 2) the correction work is underway; and 3) the cumulative, peak-design, flows potentially added from new connections and line extensions upstream of any chronic overflow or release point are less than or proportional to the amount of inflow and infiltration removal documented upstream of that point. The inflow and infiltration reduction must be measured by the permittee using practices that are customary in the environmental engineering field and reported in an attachment to a Monthly Operating Report submitted to the local TDEC Environmental Field Office. The data measurement period shall be sufficient to account for seasonal rainfall patterns and seasonal groundwater table elevations.

e. In the event that chronic sanitary sewer overflows or releases have occurred from a single point in the collection system for reasons that may not warrant the self-imposed moratorium of the actions identified in this paragraph, the permittee may request a meeting with the Division of Water Resources EFO staff to petition for a waiver based on mitigating evidence.

4. Adverse Impact

The permittee shall take all reasonable steps to minimize any adverse impact to the waters of Tennessee resulting from noncompliance with this permit, including such accelerated or additional monitoring as necessary to determine the nature and impact of the noncomplying discharge. It shall not be a defense for the permittee in an enforcement action that it would have been necessary to halt or reduce the permitted activity in order to maintain compliance with the conditions of this permit.

D. LIABILITIES

1. Civil and Criminal Liability

The permittee is subject to civil and criminal liability for violation of this permit. Notwithstanding this permit, the permittee shall remain liable for any damages sustained by the State of Tennessee, including but not limited to fish kills and losses of aquatic life and/or wildlife, as a result of the discharge of wastewater to any surface or subsurface waters. Additionally, notwithstanding this Permit, it shall be the responsibility of the permittee to conduct its wastewater treatment and/or discharge activities in a manner such that public or private nuisances or health hazards will not be created.

2. Liability Under State Law

Nothing in this permit shall be construed to preclude the institution of any legal action or relieve the permittee from any responsibilities, liabilities, or penalties established pursuant to any applicable State law.

E. PROHIBITIVE DISCHARGE STANDARDS

1. Under no circumstances shall the permittee allow introduction of the following wastes into the waste treatment system:
 - a. Pollutants which create a fire or explosion hazard in the POTW.
 - b. Pollutants which will cause corrosive structural damage to the POTW, but in no case discharges with pH lower than 5.0 unless the works is specifically designed to accommodate such discharges.
 - c. Solid or viscous pollutants in amounts which will cause obstruction to the flow in the POTW resulting in interference.
 - d. Any pollutant, including oxygen demanding pollutants (BOD, etc.) released in a discharge at a flow rate and/or pollutant concentration which will cause interference with the POTW.
 - e. Heat in amounts which will inhibit biological activity in the POTW resulting in interference, but in no case heat in such quantities that the temperature at the POTW Treatment Plant exceeds 40° C (104° F) unless the Division, upon request of the POTW, approves alternate temperature limits.
 - f. Any priority pollutant in amounts that will contaminate the treatment works sludge.
 - g. Petroleum oil, nonbiodegradable cutting oil, or products of mineral oil origin in amounts that will cause interference or pass through.
 - h. Pollutants which results in the presence of toxic gases, vapors, or fumes within the POTW in a quantity that may cause acute worker health and safety problems.
 - i. Any trucked or hauled pollutants except at discharge points designated by the POTW.
2. The permittee shall notify the Tennessee Division of Water Resources of any of the following changes in user discharge to the system no later than 30 days prior to change of discharge:

- a. New introductions into such works of pollutants from any source which would be a new source as defined in Section 306 of the Act if such source were discharging pollutants.
- b. New introductions of pollutants into such works from a source which would be subject to Section 301 of the "Federal Water Pollution Control Act as Amended" if it were discharging such pollutants.
- c. A substantial change in volume or character of pollutants being introduced into such works by a source already discharging pollutants into such works at the time the permit is issued.

This notice will include information on the quantity and quality of the wastewater introduced by the new source into the publicly owned treatment works, and on any anticipated impact on the effluent discharged from such works.

F. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Financial Security

1. The Big Valley Resort Inc. shall obtain, maintain, and demonstrate adequate bond or financial security, in an amount equal to \$75,000. The Big Valley Resort Inc. may obtain a surety bond, insurance and risk retention group coverage, letter of credit or other financial security acceptable to the division.
2. Proof of adequate bond or financial security shall be submitted to the division in the form of a notarized copy of the instrument prior to construction of the sewerage system. The Big Valley Resort Inc. shall also submit a notarized copy of the bond or financial security, should the term of the security be canceled, extended, the terms changed, or the Association obtains alternative security within thirty (30) days of the said change.
3. Forfeiture: Conditions for bond or financial security forfeiture are as follows:
 - a. Failure to properly transfer or renew the permit and/or bond;
 - b. Failure to employ a certified operator for more than (30) days;
 - c. Chronic permit violations and/or violations not corrected within (30) days of notice of such violations from the Division;
 - d. Failure to properly maintain the collection or treatment system such that the system cannot be properly operated;
 - e. Operation of the collection or treatment system in such a manner as to create a public nuisance and or health hazard;
 - f. Abandonment of the facility; or
 - g. Insufficient funds to carry out the terms and conditions of the permit.

4. The Big Valley Resort Inc. must notify the division if the adequate bond or financial security is canceled. The company shall have thirty (30) days from the notification of cancellation to obtain alternate adequate bond or financial security acceptable to the division.

5. Failure to submit the amount of adequate bond or financial security, failure to procure adequate bond or financial security and failure to submit proof of adequate bond or financial security will be cause for either revocation of the permit, enforcement action or both.

RATIONALE

Big Valley Campground, Inc.
STATE OPERATION PERMIT NO. SOP-96038
Townsend, Blount County, Tennessee

Permit Writer: Mr. Jack Beach

FACILITY CONTACT INFORMATION:

Mr. John Joiner
Chairman
Phone: (865) 250-8010
johnmjoiner@comcast.net
7056 E. Lamar Alexander Parkway
Townsend, TN 37882

- Activity Description:** A pump and haul system to collect and transport domestic wastewater which exceeds the capacity of the conventional septic system serving campground hookups to Maryville or other municipal STP. Per discussion with the permittee, the septic tank effluent routinely discharges to a large capacity septic system and solids from the septic tank are pumped and hauled to Maryville STP once per year.
- Facility location:** Latitude 35.679722 and Longitude -83.79
- Name of the nearest stream:** No discharge allowed
- Treatment system:** 33,000 gallon septic tank with 4-acre leachfield that discharges automatically by a computer-controlled system.
- Permit period:** This permit will be issued for a five year period effective from the issuance date on the title page.
- Terms & Conditions:** The terms and conditions of this permit are only applicable to the pump and haul activities of this facility. The large capacity septic system falls under regulation of a pending underground injection control authorization.
- Financial Security:** Privately-owned sewerage systems are to provide financial security to the department to comply with TCA 69-3-122.
- Annual Maintenance Fee:** An annual maintenance fee for the permit will apply after permit issue and upon receipt of an invoice. The fee is currently \$350.00 for non-discharging facilities with influent flow less than 0.075 MGD.