

In the Matter of:	§	Docket No. CWA-06-2017-2704
	§	
Lafourche Parish Government, a Louisiana Municipality	§	Status Report
	§	
Respondent.	§	
	§	

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STATUS REPORT

COMES NOW COMPLAINANT, Director of the Water Division, Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6 (“EPA” or “Complainant”) to provide a Status Report for the above-captioned matter.

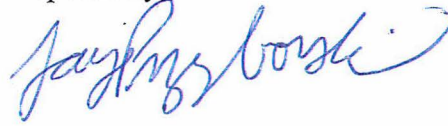
As detailed in a previous Status Report, dated April 19, 2017, Complainant issued an Administrative Complaint and Notice of Opportunity for Hearing (“Complaint”) to the Lafourche Parish Government (“Respondent” or “the Parish”) on October 24, 2016, seeking a civil monetary penalty for violation of Section 301(a) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a).

During the week of April 10, 2017, the office of the District Attorney for Lafourche Parish contacted EPA to express that the District Attorney’s office had been unaware of this matter and wished to address the Complaint and any related compliance concerns. On April 19, 2017, representatives of the Parish, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (“the Corps”), and EPA participated in a teleconference to initiate settlement discussions. Thereafter, upon request by the Parish, EPA and the Corps calculated cost estimates related to compliance with EPA enforcement orders and permitting requirements, then provided these estimates and other information to the Parish.

Representatives of the Parish brought this matter before the Lafourche Parish Council (“the Council”) at meetings on May 9, 2017, and May 11, 2017. Respondent has expressed a desire to seek swift resolution, and, to that end, is currently seeking outside legal counsel with expertise in federal environmental law. Respondent represents that the Council must approve the selection of legal counsel and the appropriation of funds for retention of legal counsel. The Council will next have an opportunity to approve the selection and funding of legal counsel for this matter during the week of May 22, 2017.

EPA has discussed with Respondent the requirement to file an Answer to the Complaint. EPA has also advised Respondent that in the absence of an Answer, EPA may be compelled to file a motion for default. EPA will provide another Status Update during the week of May 29, 2017.

Respectfully,



Jay Przyborski  
Assistant Regional Counsel  
EPA, Region 6