

From: [HertzWu, Sara](#)
To: [ADAMAS CONSTRUCTION And DEVELOPMENT SERVICES PLLC](#)
Cc: [Christopher Gallus](#); [Kleffner, Erin](#)
Subject: RE: ADAMAS Reply Lame Deer Lagoon CjG
Date: Thursday, July 18, 2019 2:18:00 PM

Nathan: We have reviewed the response you provided on July 2, 2019. Based on what you submitted, EPA still does not have a response to Question 7 of the 208. Question 7 states as follows:

7. For each land application of biosolids by Adamas Construction and Development services, since January 1, 2018, provide the information listed below:

- a. The street address or legal description of the location;
- b. The date(s) upon which the location was used for the land application of biosolids;
- c. The number of acres upon which biosolids were land applied;
- d. The number of loads applied;
- e. A description of how the site restrictions of 40 CFR 503.32(b)(5) were met; and
- f. The annual application rate of biosolids as calculated.

We request that you provide documents responsive to this request or let us know that you do not have these documents by **July 23, 2019**. As a land applier, you are not exempt from Section 503 of the regulations and are required to keep this type of documentation.

This matter was referred to us by Region 8. EPA Region 7 handles biosolids matters for all EPA regions.

Please let me know if you would like to discuss this further or if you have any questions.

Regards,

Sara Hertz Wu
Assistant Regional Counsel
EPA Region VII
11201 Renner Boulevard
Lenexa, Kansas 66219
Phone: (913)551-7316
Email: hertzwu.sara@epa.gov
Fax: (913) 551-7925

From: HertzWu, Sara
Sent: Monday, July 08, 2019 8:34 AM
To: ADAMAS CONSTRUCTION And DEVELOPMENT SERVICES PLLC <adamas.mt.406@gmail.com>
Cc: Christopher Gallus <chrisjgalluslaw@gmail.com>; Kleffner, Erin <kleffner.erin@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: ADAMAS Reply Lame Deer Lagoon CjG

Nathan: Thank you for your response. We will review and be in touch soon.

Regards,

Sara Hertz Wu
Assistant Regional Counsel
EPA Region VII
11201 Renner Boulevard
Lenexa, Kansas 66219
Phone: (913)551-7316
Email: hertzwu.sara@epa.gov
Fax: (913) 551-7925

From: ADAMAS CONSTRUCTION And DEVELOPMENT SERVICES PLLC <adamas.mt.406@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 02, 2019 11:08 PM
To: HertzWu, Sara <HertzWu.Sara@epa.gov>
Cc: Christopher Gallus <chrisgalluslaw@gmail.com>; Kleffner, Erin <kleffner.erin@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: ADAMAS Reply Lame Deer Lagoon CjG

Hi Sara,

Here is our response.

Our company was as given the directive from NCUC GM Sheri Bement and Northern Cheyenne tribal president Jace Killsback to proceed with sludge removal and application and; a.) NCUC would take the sludge samples or would be responsible for sludge samples, there are several witnesses to this b.) the land the sludge was being applied to belonged to the Tribe a sovereign nation according to Killsback and Bement and was only leased, therefore exempt, Vernon Smalls from NC land Authority and Wayne from northern Cheyenne Environment Department can be called as witness to this c.) the attached pre-construction meeting minutes show clearly that IHS informed NCUC they were responsible for all work and they specifically state at bullet point #4 "NCUC is ultimately responsible for following 503 regulation or requirements d.) despite this breach of duty by NCUC, we attempted to make a good faith effort to comply with the requirements after learning of NCUC's failure to comply, see attached lab results e.) the land the sludge was applied to was tested and identified by IHS in the bid packet and fixed price agreement and the soil testing was the only test identified by IHS, despite this we took samples f.) the attached email shows we communicated to NCUC and IHS our request that NCUC comply with the requirements, it also show we gave updates on amounts of sludge removed and informed IHS of lab tests despite their claims otherwise g.) see attached email where we reached out to tribal president Killsback to inform him of issue with NCUC.

Please be informed that we have filed an Administrative Tort Claim with DPHHS, submitted under

the Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA) against members of IHS. We believe there may be issue of these individuals using the USEPA as a way to cause harm to our business. AS such, we request the following information;

1. How and when did you or the USEPA Region 7 office become aware of the involvement of ADAMAS with this project.
2. Have you or anyone from your office been contacted or are you in contact with members or employees of the Indian Health Services regarding this project. (If so, who)

Best regards,

On Fri, Jun 21, 2019 at 12:57 PM HertzWu, Sara <HertzWu.Sara@epa.gov> wrote:

Chris and Nathan: Thank you for your response. The deadline for providing a response to the 308 information request letter is July 2, 2019. If you need another copy of the letter, please let me know.

Regards,

Sara Hertz Wu
Assistant Regional Counsel
EPA Region VII
11201 Renner Boulevard
Lenexa, Kansas 66219
Phone: (913)551-7316
Email: hertzwu.sara@epa.gov
Fax: (913) 551-7925

From: Christopher Gallus <chrisjgalluslaw@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, June 21, 2019 12:15 PM

To: ADAMAS CONSTRUCTION And DEVELOPMENT SERVICES PLLC <adamas.mt.406@gmail.com>;
HertzWu, Sara <HertzWu.Sara@epa.gov>

Subject: Re: ADAMAS Reply Lame Deer Lagoon CjG

Sara,

Thank you for the communication. You are specifically authorized by me to communicate with my client Nathan Pierce, or his spouse Michelle, on this matter. As I do continue to represent him I do ask that I be copied and have an opportunity to provide counsel where circumstances permit or necessitate, but Mr. Pierce is a sophisticated client with respect to these matters and direct communication will facilitate having this matter expedited.

Nathan, please provide the documents to Sara and sign any appropriate certifications or authorization. I'm happy to continue to help, but realize cost considerations are a factor. If you have questions please contact me. If you have a conference or meeting involving legal documents or discussions please feel free to include me.

Thank you, both, Chris

On Fri, Jun 21, 2019 at 10:13 AM HertzWu, Sara <HertzWu.Sara@epa.gov> wrote:

Chris: Thank you for providing that response. However, the documents requested in the CWA Section 308 letter still need to be provided to EPA. EPA is unable to prove the veracity of the claims you are making regarding the waste without the appropriate documentation. If your client does not have those documents, that response must be provided as well, along with a certification as stated in the 308 letter. Failing to respond to the information request is a separate violation of the Clean Water Act.

Further, the reporting requirements under 40 CFR Part 503 apply to any person who prepares sewage sludge that is applied to the land, to any person who applies sewage sludge to the land, to sewage sludge applied to the land, and to the land on which sewage sludge is applied. See 503.10(a). Therefore, your client should have the required records available to provide to EPA.

Your client also contacted me directly. Because he is represented by counsel, I did not return his call. Unless specifically authorized by you, I will only communicate with him through his counsel. If you are no longer his counsel, please advise.

EPA requests that compliance with the CWA Section 308 letter within 10 days. The original letter was sent 10 months ago and we have yet to receive a response. Your client either possesses the documents or he does not. Either way, a response is required.

If you wish to set up a call to discuss, please let me know.

Regards,

Sara Hertz Wu
Assistant Regional Counsel
EPA Region VII
11201 Renner Boulevard
Lenexa, Kansas 66219
Phone: (913)551-7316
Email: hertzwu.sara@epa.gov
Fax: (913) 551-7925

From: Christopher Gallus <chrisgalluslaw@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 14, 2019 4:48 PM
To: Kleffner, Erin <kleffner.erin@epa.gov>
Subject: ADAMAS Reply Lame Deer Lagoon CjG

Erin,

I apologize, but this is the only manner in which I can provide a response today. When I return to my office I will scan the letter, but the content is the exact same as is being provided here.
Thanks, CJG

Chris J. Gallus, Attorney at Law
Law, Elections & Gov't Relations
1423 East Otter Road
Helena, Montana 59602
Ph. 406.459.8676

chrisjgalluslaw@gmail.com

June 14, 2019

Erin Kleffner, Compliance Officer
U.S. EPA Region 7
11201 Renner Boulevard
Lenexa, Kansas 66219

RE: Lame Deer Lagoon Desludging and Land Application
Northern Cheyenne Reservation

Dear Ms. Kleffner:

I appreciated receiving your letter of June 11, 2019 regarding my client ADAMAS Construction. We accept your offer to conduct pre-filing negotiations and we are providing you the requested information.

Mr. Pierce has previously responded to EPA Region 8 officials. As you will read, it is the position of ADAMAS that the size of the entity involved excluded 503 regulation, as is being asserted. ADAMAS maintains that it complied with EPA regulations and did not violate any provisions of law. To the extent the EPA determines a violation occurred, as explained, it is not a violation by ADAMAS, for reasons provided herein.

Please find a summary of our position prepared by Mr. Peirce. I will instruct him to complete and send his signed Statement of Certification, if you determine one is required. Mr. Pierce is currently traveling and has limited access to technology. We are happy to discuss this matter at your convenience.

You should be aware that ADAMAS filed a notice to file tort claims against IHS agents connected with this particular project because these agents engaged in retaliatory acts against ADAMAS and Mr. Peirce. Mr. Pierce has also requested Congressional assistance to resolve matters pertaining to the Lame Deer Lagoon Project, and U.S. Senator Steve Daines is assisting Nathan and I in that regard.

That information provided, we understand your agency is separate and apart from IHS and we certainly intend to participate and comply with any of your applicable regulations. As such, we provide the following information and summary pertaining to your request:

SUMMARY:

The land the sludge was applied to was identified in IHS Bid packet BI16N39 and is owned by the Northern Cheyenne Nation and is leased by the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Land Authority to Tom Robinson the leasehold tenant. IHS also gave an estimate of the application rate of the sludge to the land and this information was relayed to Tom before application. It is important to note that Tom Robinson is the Brother-in-Law of IHS construction inspector George Cummings. (Bid Packet, available upon request)

IHS construction inspector George Cummings was on site when sludge was being applied and can confirm details of how and when it was applied and the manner his brother-in-law, Tom Robinson, complied with the 503 regulations. Tom Robinson was the person or persons who applied the sludge to the land using his own equipment and he is the Leasehold tenant of the property.

The sludge was tested by IHS and the Lab Analytical Report was included in the bid packet. According to the Lab Analytical Report the Sludge, the sewage sludge from the Lame Deer Lagoons meets the most stringent limits for all three of the sewage sludge quality parameters and is referred to as Exceptional Quality (EQ) sewage sludge. (See attached Bid Packet and Lab Analytical Report)

According to the 'EPA Land Application of Sewage Sludge - A Guide for Land Appliers on the Requirements of the Federal Standards for the Use or Disposal of Sewage Sludge, 40 CFR Part 503', "EQ sludge is considered comparable to standard fertilizer products. Therefore, land appliers of EQ sewage sludge have no requirements to meet under the Rule." This would seem to be a clear indication that my client has no requirements to meet from the EPA and does not need to meet any requirements for payment of the application portion of the contract. (See attached EPA Land Application Guide, Page 5)

According to 2.8 Reporting (40 CFR 503.18) The reporting requirements under Part 503 apply to major municipal NPDES permittees and Class I Sludge Management Facilities. Major municipal NPDES permittees are publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) with a design flow rate equal to or greater than 1 million gallons per day and POTWs with a service population of 10,000 people or more. Class I sludge management facilities are usually POTWs that are required to have an approved pre-treatment program under 40 CFR 403.8(a), including any POTW located in a State that has elected to assume local pretreatment program responsibilities under 40 CFR 403.10(e). In addition, the EPA Regional Administrator may use his or her discretion to designate other treatment works treating domestic sewage (TWTDS) as Class I sludge management facilities. Land appliers are not TWTDS unless designated as such by the EPA Regional Administrator. In order to have reporting requirements under Part 503, a land applier

must be designated both a TWTDS and a Class I sludge management facility.

Neither my client nor the Lame Deer Lagoons qualify as a POTW and are therefore exempt from reporting under the rule. As such my client should not need to meet any additional requirements for payment of the application portion of the contract. (See EPA Land Application Guide, page 29)

Despite having no requirements to meet under the Rule, my client did relay to Tom Robinson that he should comply with, Vector Attraction Reduction Option 10 (40 CFR 503.33) "Sewage sludge applied to the land shall be incorporated into the soil within 6 hours after application to the land. - When sewage sludge that is incorporated into the soil is Class A for pathogens, the sewage sludge shall be applied to the land within 8 hours after being discharged from the pathogen treatment process." George Cummings IHS Construction inspector also witnessed and ensured this vector attraction reduction option was used.

I appreciate your consideration and your attention to this important matter. Please feel free to call me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

/s/ Chris J. Gallus

Chris J. Gallus
Attorney for ADAMAS Construction

Sent from my iPhone

--

PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL
ATTORNEY-CLIENT COMMUNICATION
ATTORNEY WORK-PRODUCT
DISCLAIMER

This transmission may contain privileged or confidential information protected by joint defense, attorney-client, and/or attorney work-product privileges. If you are not the intended recipient, (1) you are instructed not to review this transmission; and (2) please notify the sender that you received this message and deleted this transmission from your system.

--

PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL
ATTORNEY-CLIENT COMMUNICATION
ATTORNEY WORK-PRODUCT
DISCLAIMER

This transmission may contain privileged or confidential information protected by joint defense, attorney-client, and/or attorney work-product privileges. If you are not the intended recipient, (1) you are instructed not to review this transmission; and (2) please notify the sender that you received this message and deleted this transmission from your system.

Nathan Pierce - Owner/General Manager

ADAMAS Construction & Development Services PLLC

PH: 1-406-697-3022

EMAIL: ADAMAS.MT.406@GMAIL.COM

www.biomicrobicsmontana.com

CONTRACTOR REGISTRATION# 228703

~ Building the Future with the Enviroment in Mind ~

~ GENERAL CONTRACTOR - COMMERCIAL - INDUSTRIAL - RESIDENTIAL - MUNICIPAL ~