



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE
DALLAS, TEXAS 75202-2733

RECEIVED

MAR 21 2007

Lloyd Gosselink

MAR 12 2007

CERTIFIED MAIL: RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED (7004 1160 0003 0352 1113)

San Jacinto River Authority (SJRA)
Donald R. Sarich, Division Manager
P.O. Box 7537
The Woodlands, TX 77387

Re: Request for a Public Hearing and Extension of Public Comment Period, San Jacinto River Authority (SJRA), Woodlands Wastewater Treatment Plant No. 1, TX0054186

Dear Mr. Sarich:

Thank you for your letter of February 19, 2007, providing comments on the draft permit and requesting both an extension of the public comment period and a request for a public hearing.

The draft permit was publicly noticed on December 7, 2006, with comments due by January 8, 2007. In a letter dated December 18, 2006, you asked for an extension of the public comment period to February 20, 2007. In this request SJRA cites the need to "raise all reasonably ascertainable issues and submit all reasonable ascertainable arguments" as justification for the extension. This request was granted by EPA on January 4, 2007. In your letter of February 19, 2007, SJRA requested an extension to provide an opportunity to respond to other comments. EPA has provided a 30-day public comment period, followed by a 43-day extension of the public comment period. We believe that this provided sufficient opportunity for public comment. Thus EPA denies SJRA's request for another extension of the public comment period.

SJRA also requested a public hearing on this draft permit. EPA regulations at 40 CFR §124.12 state that the Director "shall hold a public hearing when he or she finds, on the basis of requests, a significant degree of public interest in a draft permit(s)." SJRA was the only party to comment on this draft permit and the only member of the public to request a hearing. Thus, EPA finds there is not a "significant degree of public interest" in the proposed draft permit to warrant a public hearing.

Attachment A

Mr. Donald Sarich
Page 2

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 214-665-6565 or Willie Lane, Chief of the NPDES Permits and Technical Section, at (214) 665-8460, by fax at (214) 665-2191, or e-mail at lane.willie@EPA.gov.

Sincerely yours,



Claudia V. Hosch
Chief
NPDES Permits Branch

cc: Lauren Kalisck
816 Congress Ave, Suite 1900
Austin TX 78701