



# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Protection

Northeast District  
8800 Baymeadows Way West, Suite 100  
Jacksonville, Florida 32256

**Ron DeSantis**  
Governor

**Jeanette Nuñez**  
Lt. Governor

**Noah Valenstein**  
Secretary

May 13, 2019

Southpoint Dairy Holdings, LLC  
c/o Mr. Ron St. John  
4951 NW 170<sup>th</sup> Street  
Trenton, Florida 32693-7859

**SUBJECT: Department of Environmental Protection v. Southpoint Dairy Holdings, LLC**  
**OGC File No.: 19-0372**  
**Southpoint Dairy, Facility ID No.: FLA285374**  
**Levy County – Wastewater Enforcement**

Dear Mr. Ron St. John:

The State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (“Department”) finds that Southpoint Dairy Holdings, LLC (“Respondent”) exceeded the permitted concentration limit for nitrite plus nitrate, total (as N) for the compliance monitoring well MWC-10, in violation of Condition III.9 Ground Water Requirements of Industrial Wastewater Permit No. FLA285374-005 and Rules 62-4.160 and 62-620.610(1), Florida Administrative Code (“Fla. Admin. Code”) which both states that all terms and conditions of the permit must be met. The Permit limit of Nitrite plus Nitrate, Total (as N) for MWC-10 is a maximum of 10 mg/L. It is also noted in Table 1 below, that on June 30, 2018, MWB-1 (Background well) had an equal/higher value than the compliance well MWC-10. When this occurs, the value in the background well becomes the state standard for that period. Therefore, the results for MWC-9 and MWC-10, will not be considered as exceedances. The other exceedances for MWC-10, are noted in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Nitrite/Nitrate Exceedances**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Parameter</b>	<b>MWB-1 (mg/L) (Report)</b>	<b>MWC-9 (mg/L) Limit = 10 mg/L</b>	<b>MWC-10 (mg/L) Limit = 10 mg/L</b>
March 31, 2017	Nitrite + Nitrate, Total (as N)	0.28	6.6	11
September 30, 2017	Nitrite + Nitrate, Total (as N)	3.1	4.5	13
December 31, 2017	Nitrite + Nitrate, Total (as N)	0.26	6.9	12
March 31, 2018	Nitrite + Nitrate, Total (as N)	1.7	8.5	13
June 30, 2018	Nitrite + Nitrate, Total (as N)	13	11	13

Further, Respondent failed to report commercial fertilizer application data on the Quarterly Nutrient Application Report during the period of December 2016 to June 2018, in violation of Condition V.B.3, Permit No. FLA285374-005 and Rule 62-4.160, Fla. Admin. Code which states that all terms and conditions of the permit must be met. Before sending this letter, the Department requested that the Respondent undertake certain actions to resolve the violations. These actions have since been completed. However, due to the nature of the violations, the Respondent remains subject to civil penalties. The Respondent is also responsible for costs incurred by the Department during the investigation of this matter.

### **The Department's Offer**

Based on the violations described above, the Department is seeking \$2,500.00 in civil penalties and \$250.00 for costs and expenses the Department has incurred in investigating this matter, which amounts to a total of \$2,750.00. The civil penalty in this matter includes one violation of \$2,000.00 or more.

### **Respondent's Acceptance**

If you wish to accept this offer and fully resolve the enforcement matter pending against the Respondent, please sign this letter and return it to the Department at Northeast District 8800 Baymeadows Way West, Suite 100, Jacksonville, Florida 32256 within **15 days** of the effective date of this Order. The Department will then countersign it and file it with a designated clerk of the Department. Once the document is filed with the designated clerk, it will constitute a final order of the Department pursuant to Section 120.52(7), Fla. Stat. and will be effective unless a request for an administrative hearing is filed by a third party in accordance with Chapter 120, Fla. Stat. and the attached Notice of Rights.

By accepting this offer you, Mr. Ron St. John:

- (1) certify that you are authorized and empowered to negotiate, enter into, and accept the terms of this offer in the name and on behalf of Respondent;
- (2) acknowledge and waive Respondent's right to an administrative hearing pursuant to Sections 120.569 and 120.57, Fla. Stat., on the terms of this offer, once final;
- (3) acknowledge and waive Respondent's right to an appeal pursuant to Section 120.68, Fla. Stat.
- (4) acknowledge that payment of the above amount does not constitute a waiver of the Department's right, if any, to recover emergency response related costs and expenses for this matter.

The Department acknowledges that the Respondent's acceptance of this offer does not constitute an admission of liability for the violations referenced above.

### **Respondent's Performance**

After signing and returning this document to the Department,

- (1) Respondent must pay \$ 2,750.00 in full within 30 days of the effective date of this Order.
- (2) Respondent shall make all payments required by this Order by cashier's check, money order or on-line payment. Cashier's check or money order shall be made payable to the "Department of Environmental Protection" and shall include both the OGC number assigned to this Order and the notation "Water Quality Assurance Trust Fund." Online payments by e-check can be made by going to the DEP Business Portal at: <http://www.fldeportal.com/go/pay/>. It will take a number of days after this order is final and effective filed with the Clerk of the Department before ability to make online payment is available.

The Department may enforce the terms of this document, once final, and seek to collect monies owed pursuant to Sections 120.69 and 403.121, Fla. Stat.


Until clerked by the Department, this letter is only a settlement offer and not a final agency action. Consequently, neither the Respondent nor any other party may request an administrative hearing to contest this letter pursuant to Chapter 120, Fla. Stat. Once this letter is clerked and becomes a final order of the Department, as explained above, the attached Notice of Rights will apply to parties, other than the Respondent, whose interests will be substantially affected.

Electronic signatures or other versions of the parties' signatures, such as .pdf or facsimile, shall be valid and have the same force and effect as originals. No modifications of the terms of this Order will be effective until reduced to writing, executed by both Respondent and the Department, and filed with the clerk of the Department.

Please be aware that if the Respondent declines to respond to the Department's offer, the Department will assume that the Respondent is not interested in resolving the matter and will proceed accordingly.

If you have any questions, please contact Shannon Taylor by phone at (904) 256-1617, or via email at [Shannon.N.Taylor@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:Shannon.N.Taylor@FloridaDEP.gov).

Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James R. Maher, P.E.  
Assistant District Director

FOR THE RESPONDENT:

I, \_\_\_\_\_ [Ron St. John], **HEREBY ACCEPT THE  
TERMS OF THE SETTLEMENT OFFER IDENTIFIED ABOVE.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
[Signature]

Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
[Type or Print]

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**FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY**

DONE AND ORDERED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2019, in Duval County,  
Florida.

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT  
OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gregory J. Strong  
District Director  
Northeast District

Filed, on this date, pursuant to section 120.52, Fla. Stat., with the designated Department Clerk,  
receipt of which is hereby acknowledged.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Attachments:          Notice of Rights

Final clerked copy furnished to:

Lea Crandall, Agency Clerk ([lea.crandall@floridadep.gov](mailto:lea.crandall@floridadep.gov))

## NOTICE OF RIGHTS

Persons who are not parties to this Order, but whose substantial interests are affected by it, have a right to petition for an administrative hearing under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, Fla. Stat. Because the administrative hearing process is designed to formulate final agency action, the filing of a petition concerning this Order means that the Department's final action may be different from the position it has taken in the Order.

The petition for administrative hearing must contain all of the following information:

- a) The OGC Number assigned to this Order;
- b) The name, address, and telephone number of each petitioner; the name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner's representative, if any, which shall be the address for service purposes during the course of the proceeding;
- c) An explanation of how the petitioner's substantial interests will be affected by the Order;
- d) A statement of when and how the petitioner received notice of the Order;
- e) Either a statement of all material facts disputed by the petitioner or a statement that the petitioner does not dispute any material facts;
- f) A statement of the specific facts the petitioner contends warrant reversal or modification of the Order;
- g) A statement of the rules or statutes the petitioner contends require reversal or modification of the Order; and
- h) A statement of the relief sought by the petitioner, stating precisely the action petitioner wishes the Department to take with respect to the Order.

The petition must be filed (received) at the Department's Office of General Counsel, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS# 35, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000 within 21 days of receipt of this notice. A copy of the petition must also be mailed at the time of filing to the District Office at the address indicated above. Failure to file a petition within the 21-day period constitutes a person's waiver of the right to request an administrative hearing and to participate as a party to this proceeding under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, Fla. Stat. Mediation under Section 120.573, Fla. Stat., is not available in this proceeding.