



**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT  
and NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**DENR and City of Pierre Agree to Settlement for Wastewater Violations**

PIERRE, S.D. – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) announced today that it has reached a settlement with the city of Pierre for surface water discharge permit violations that occurred. The enforcement action issued by DENR resulted in penalties of \$32,700, with \$16,974 suspended if Pierre complies with the terms of the settlement agreement. Under the federal Clean Water Act, the U.S. EPA maintains authority to oversee DENR’s enforcement activities.

On June 1, 2015, Greg Mohr, former Pierre wastewater superintendent, pled guilty to two counts of water pollution control violations. Mohr submitted falsified water pollution control reports by failing to properly report permit violations. The city is required to disinfect its wastewater to remove bacteria. The city’s disinfection system was releasing too much chlorine into the river. Due to Mohr’s false records, the city was not initially aware of the violations.

The city notified DENR when they became aware of the violations and has been working to identify and address the problems with its disinfection system. The city installed an alternative disinfection system to address the chlorine violations, but the new system has not provided adequate disinfection of the wastewater. The city had additional bacteria violations during this time period. There is no evidence the violations resulted in water quality impacts to the Missouri River.

The city worked cooperatively with DENR to identify all of the violations and has committed to correct the disinfection system and prevent future violations.

“The notice of violation and compliance agreement requires the city of Pierre to complete a full evaluation of its wastewater disinfection system,” said DENR Secretary Steve Pirner. “The city came forward with a proactive plan to address the violations and we are pleased with the cooperation we have received from the city.”

If there are additional violations, the city will be required to pay a portion of the suspended penalty, in accordance with the terms of the settlement agreement. All environmental penalties are deposited in the state’s Regulated Substance Response Fund, which is used to respond to environmental emergencies.