



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 4  
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
61 FORSYTH STREET  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

CERTIFIED MAIL 7015 1730 0002 0524 5222  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Ms. Teresa B. Wilson  
City Manager of Columbia  
P.O. Box 147  
Columbia, South Carolina 29217

Re: United States et al. v. The City of Columbia Consent Decree  
Civil Action No.: 3:13-2429-TLW (D. S.C.)

Dear Ms. Wilson:

This is in response to your letter of October 13, 2015, claiming that a force majeure event had occurred and would affect the ability of the City of Columbia to comply with its obligations under the above-referenced Consent Decree. The force majeure event in question is the unprecedented rainfall and catastrophic flooding that the City experienced beginning on October 4, 2015. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4 has determined, after a reasonable opportunity for review and comment by the South Carolina Department of Health, that the anticipated delay described in your letter is attributable to a force majeure event and that the time for performance of certain obligations under the Consent Decree should be extended in accordance with your request. Specifically, pursuant to Paragraph 57 of the Consent Decree, the deadline for submission of four deliverables due on November 21, 2015 is extended to January 5, 2016. The four deliverables subject to this extension are:

1. Wastewater Collection and Transmission System Training Program (WCTS Training Program, required under Paragraph 12.c of Consent Decree)
2. Information Management System (IMS) Program (Paragraph 12.d of Consent Decree)
3. Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations Program (Paragraph 11.b of Consent Decree)
4. Financial Analysis Program (Paragraph 12.j of Consent Decree)

Your letter noted that the City would continue to assess the impacts of the force majeure event on the City's ability to meet deadlines in the Consent Decree, and that the City would supplement its October 13, 2015, letter with additional information regarding any further delays that may be caused by the force majeure event. We understand that the impacts to the City's operations and infrastructure have been substantial and, at the time of your October 13 letter, were still unfolding. Accordingly, we request that, as you complete your assessment, you provide notice of any additional delays that may be attributable to the force majeure event along with the information required under Paragraph 56 of the Consent Decree.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Richard Elliott, of my staff, at (404) 562-8691 or via email at [elliott.richard@epa.gov](mailto:elliott.richard@epa.gov).

Sincerely,



Maurice L. Horsey, IV, Chief  
Municipal & Industrial Enforcement Section  
NPDES Permitting and Enforcement Branch

cc: City Attorney  
Columbia, South Carolina

Chief Financial Officer  
Columbia, South Carolina

Director – Utilities and Engineering  
Columbia, South Carolina

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