

WHEREAS, on February 19, 2019, a NOV was issued to the Respondent by the Division, stating the Division's intent to revise Order 5478 or create a new Order addressing unpermitted discharges from the Respondent's sanitary sewer collection system to waters of the State and permit violations from the Withlacoochee and Mud Creek WPCPs from April 8, 2014, to December 31, 2018; and

WHEREAS, in a meeting held between the Division and the Respondent on April 8, 2019, the Respondent indicated that smoke testing had revealed approximately one-thousand five-hundred (1500) cleanout caps had been removed by residents in order to reduce flooding on private properties, as well as pipes which had been constructed to conduct stormwater from private retention ponds to the sanitary sewer collection system, exacerbating I/I flow during the storms of December 2018; and

WHEREAS, in the same meeting on April 8, 2019, the Respondent also indicated that procedures had been established to ensure that downstream entities in Florida are notified of spills from the Respondent's systems at the same date as the Division is notified; and

WHEREAS, in a written response to the February 2019 NOV dated March 19, 2019, the Respondent provided a list of ongoing and planned projects to address the causes of these spills (Attachment F), and;

WHEREAS, on December 9, 2019, the Respondent reported a spill totaling 7.59 million gallons of raw sewage at 1810 Norman Drive into Sugar Creek, which feeds the Withlacoochee River; and

WHEREAS, the spill was the result of a component left unplugged during maintenance on the nearby Remerton Lift Station, performed on Tuesday December 3, 2019, by Electric Machine Control, Inc. (EMC); and