



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IV

345 COURTLAND STREET, N.E.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30365

MAR 30 1992

REF: 4WM-WPEB

Mr. Elmore Kerkela, Vice President
Arch Creek Trust, Incorporated
1855 Northeast 135th Street
North Miami, Florida 33181

RE: Arch Creek

Dear Mr. Kerkela:

In your letter dated February 21, 1992, you described conditions found in Arch Creek, and asked what actions can be taken to solve this existing pollution problem.

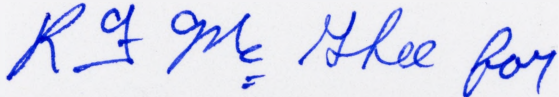
Your letter indicated that the coliform count in Arch Creek was reported to be in excess of 90,000 units per 100 milliliters. Our initial attempt to determine the pollutant source involved an examination of our National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit files. This search revealed that there are no NPDES permits covering discharges to Arch Creek; therefore, the source may be either an illegal discharge into Arch Creek or may be coming from non-point source storm water runoff. Considering the fact that land uses in the City of North Miami are comprised predominately of single-family residential, with no agricultural use, it is our concern that the pollutant source may indeed be from an illegal discharge. Without knowing the circumstances under which this significant level of coliform count was found, it is impossible to speculate further at this time.

By copy of this letter, we are requesting that the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation obtain and review this data on Arch Creek. EPA also asks that FDER review their files for any permitted discharges to this creek. EPA should be copied on this information.

Ms. Jeannie McNeill, P.E., of EPA, Region IV, NPDES Storm Water and Municipal Permits Unit, will be meeting with Metro-Dade County on April 8, 1992, concerning Part 1 of the NPDES municipal storm water application. Discussion on the existing condition of Arch Creek will be added to this meeting agenda.

When a course of action is determined, EPA will apprise you of the details. Thank you for your letter and your active involvement in seeking a resolution to this problem. Please contact Ms. McNeill at 404/347-2913 if you have further concern in this matter.

Sincerely,



W. Ray Cunningham, Director
Water Management Division

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Richard Drew (with enclosure)
FDER, Tallahassee

Scott Benyon (with enclosure)
FDER, Southeast District Branch Office