

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8**



IN THE MATTER OF)

Town of Alpine,)

Respondent.)

Town of Alpine)

Public Water System)

PWS ID# WY5600156)

Docket No. SDWA-08-2025-0025

**EMERGENCY
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**

AUTHORITY

1. This Emergency Administrative Order (Order) is issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) pursuant to the authority of section 1431(a) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (Act), 42 U.S.C. § 300i(a). The undersigned official has been properly delegated this authority.
2. The EPA may issue an order under section 1431(a) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300i(a), when a contaminant that is present in or is likely to enter a public water system may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to the health of persons, and appropriate state and local authorities have not acted to protect the health of such persons.

FINDINGS

3. The Town of Alpine (Respondent) is a municipality that owns and operates the Town of Alpine Public Water System (System), which provides piped water to the public in Lincoln County, Wyoming, for human consumption.
4. Respondent is a “person” as that term is defined in the Act. 42 U.S.C. § 300f(12).
5. The System is supplied by a groundwater source accessed via three wells. The water is treated by injection of sodium hypochlorite prior to storage.
6. The System has approximately 700 service connections used by year-round residents and regularly serves an average of approximately 1,300 year-round residents. Therefore, the System is a “public water system” and a “community water system” as defined in 40 C.F.R. § 141.2 and section 1401 of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300f and, therefore, is subject to the requirements of the Act and the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations at 40 C.F.R. part 141 (Part 141).

7. On June 27, 2025, the EPA consulted with appropriate state and local authorities regarding actions such authorities have taken in this matter to protect the health of individuals served by the Systems; to confirm the correctness of the information on which this Order is based; and to ascertain the actions which state or local authorities are or will be taking.
8. The EPA is responsible for direct implementation of the Act in Wyoming, as no other governmental entity has received delegated authority to implement the Act in Wyoming. The EPA has determined that state and local authorities have not acted to protect the health of persons in this instance.
9. The EPA has determined that conditions exist at the System that may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to the health of humans, based on the facts indicated in paragraph 10, and that this Order is necessary to protect the health of such persons.
10. On June 27, 2025, the EPA was notified that the System lost pressure due to a water main break that occurred the night of June 26, 2025. The loss of pressure reportedly affected the lower zone of the distribution system served by storage tanks ST03 and ST04.
11. Loss of pressure in a drinking water distribution system may cause a net movement of water from outside of a pipe to the inside through cracks, breaks, or joints in the distribution system that are common in all water systems. Backsiphonage is also a condition resulting from low or no pressure. Such system failures carry a high potential for fecal contamination or other disease-causing organisms to enter a distribution system.
12. On June 27, 2025, the EPA provided Respondent with a public notice template for a boil water advisory.

ORDER

INTENT TO COMPLY

13. Within 24 hours of receipt of this Order, Respondent must notify the EPA in writing of their intent to comply with this Order. Notification by e-mail to the EPA point of contact identified below is acceptable.

BOIL WATER ADVISORY PUBLIC NOTICE

14. If Respondent has not already done so, Respondent must, no later than 24 hours after receipt of this Order, notify persons served by the System of the pressure loss using the public notice template referenced in paragraph 12 above. A copy of the public notice and certification must be provided to EPA within 24 hours of completing the public notice.
15. The boil water advisory referenced in paragraph 12 above, must remain in place until the EPA provides written notification to Respondent that the boil water advisory is no longer needed.
16. Respondent must carry out the public notice and other notice requirements as required by 40 C.F.R. part 141, subpart Q.

ALTERNATE WATER SUPPLY

17. Using the public notice template referenced in paragraph 12, above, Respondent must, no later than 24 hours after receipt of this Order, notify the public that an alternative potable water supply is available at no cost to all users of the System as needed for drinking, cooking, maintaining oral hygiene, and dish washing. Respondent must provide at least one gallon of potable water daily per person at a central location that is accessible to all persons served by the System. The alternate water supply must be made available until the Respondent receives written notification from the EPA that it is no longer necessary to supply alternative potable water.
18. No later than five days after the effective date of this Order (see paragraph 33, below), Respondent must provide the EPA with a copy of its notification to the public indicating that an alternate water supply is available.

CORRECTIVE MEASURES

19. Within 7 days after the effective date of this Order (see paragraph 33, below), Respondent must provide the EPA with a plan and schedule that outlines corrective actions taken or to be taken to prevent future pressure loss at the System. The plan must identify the cause of the pressure loss referenced in paragraph 10, if possible, and include proposed system modifications, estimated costs of modifications, and a schedule for completion of the project. The proposed schedule must include specific

milestone dates and a final completion date (to be within three months from the date of the EPA's approval of a schedule).

20. The schedule required by paragraph 19, above, will be incorporated into this Order as an enforceable requirement upon written approval by the EPA. If implementation of the plan fails to correct and prevent further pressure loss, the EPA may order further steps.
21. Respondent must notify the EPA in writing within 24 hours after completing corrective action.

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM DISINFECTION AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

22. Within 24 hours after corrective action has been completed to address the cause of the pressure loss required by paragraph 21, above, Respondents must disinfect and flush the System.
23. After disinfecting and flushing the System, Respondent must take the following action beginning on the first date when chlorine levels returned to normal: collect daily (two samples per day, one sample from a location after treatment upstream of the pressure loss, and one sample from a location downstream of the pressure loss) "special" purpose total coliform samples (defined in 40 C.F.R. § 141.853(b)) from the System's distribution system until notified in writing by the EPA that consecutive daily sampling may be discontinued. These daily samples should be labeled as "special" samples, not for use for determining compliance. Respondent must ensure that each sample is analyzed for total coliform and *E. coli* and must email each result to the EPA immediately upon receipt of the analysis from the laboratory (*i.e.*, as soon as practicable, and in no event more than 24 hours after). Along with the total coliform sample collection, Respondent must measure the chlorine residual indicating free or total and provide these measurements along with the total coliform analysis from the laboratory.
24. After Respondent receives written notification from the EPA to discontinue "special" daily total coliform sampling, Respondent must thereafter resume monthly routine total coliform sampling as required by 40 C.F.R. §§ 141.854-857 to determine compliance.

25. The EPA may require Respondent to increase sampling at any time while this Order is in effect.

REPORTING

26. Within 24 hours of receipt of this Order, Respondent must submit daily (Monday through Friday) updates on the progress of corrective actions, disinfecting and flushing the System, and monitoring for total coliform, *E. coli*, and chlorine residual to the EPA. The updates must continue daily until the EPA provides written notification to the Respondent that reports may be submitted less frequently or discontinued. These reports may be submitted via e-mail.
27. Any notices, reports, or updates required by this Order to be submitted to the EPA must be submitted to:

Christopher Brown

via e-mail: brown.christopher.t@epa.gov

Telephone (800) 227-8917, ext. 6669, or (303) 312-6669

28. This Order does not relieve Respondent from the obligation to comply with any applicable federal or local law.
29. Failure to comply with this Order may result in civil penalties of up to \$29,911 per day. 42 U.S.C. § 300i(b); 40 C.F.R. part 19; 90 Fed. Reg. at 1375 (January 8, 2025).
30. This Order constitutes final agency action. Respondent may seek federal judicial review of this Order pursuant to section 1448(a) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. 300j-7(a).
31. The EPA may modify this Order. The EPA will communicate any modification(s) to Respondent in writing and they will be incorporated into this Order.
32. The provisions of this Order will be deemed satisfied upon Respondent's receipt of written notice from the EPA that Respondent has demonstrated, to the satisfaction of EPA, that the terms of this Order have been satisfactorily completed.
33. Issued and effective this 27 day of June, 2025.

Tiffany Cantor, Acting Manager
Water Enforcement Branch
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division