



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8

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August 31, 2020
7:00 AM

Received by

EPA Region VIII

Hearing Clerk

August 28, 2020

Ref: 8ENF-W-SD

SENT VIA EMAIL
DIGITAL READ RECEIPT REQUESTED

Andrew Wert Jr., President
Assiniboine and Gros Ventre Tribes of the Fort Belknap Indian Community
Andy.Werk@ftbelknap.org

Ms. Carolyn Horn, Acting Director
Mnihnapa Water System
carolyn.horn@ftbelknap.org

Re: Emergency Administrative Order under Section 1431 of the Safe Drinking Water Act,
Mnihnapa Water System, PWS ID #083090047 C
Docket No. SDWA-08-2020-0045

Dear President Wert and Ms. Horn:

Enclosed is an Emergency Administrative Order (Order) issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to the Prairie Mountain Utility (Utility) and the Assiniboine and Gros Ventre Tribes of the Fort Belknap Indian Community (Tribes), under section 1431 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (Act), 42 U.S.C. § 300i.

The EPA has determined that conditions exist at the Mnihnapa Water System Public Water System (System) that may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to the persons served by the System. The EPA has made this determination based on a notification from the Aqua Tech Lab on August 27, 2020, that the System has *E. coli* contamination, as described in the Order.

Pursuant to the authority set forth in section 1431 of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300i, the EPA is authorized to take actions necessary to protect human health. The Order and its requirements are necessary to ensure adequate protection of public health.

The enclosed Order sets forth the actions that must be taken to ensure that the people served by the System are provided with safe drinking water. The Order requires the System to, among other things, take the following actions: issue a boil water advisory and provide an alternate source of water until notified by the EPA to discontinue; submit a plan and schedule for corrective actions; disinfect and flush the System; and take additional total coliform bacteria samples.

The penalties for failing to comply are set forth in the Order. If you have any questions or wish to discuss the Order, please contact Christina Carballal at (800) 227-8917 extension 6046 or (303) 312-6046, or by email at carballal-broome.christina@epa.gov. Any questions from counsel should be directed to Shaula Eakins, Assistant Regional Counsel, (800) 227-8917, extension 6317, or at (303) 312-6317, or by email at eakins.shaula@epa.gov.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

SUZANNE BOHAN

Digitally signed by SUZANNE
BOHAN
Date: 2020.08.28 19:12:54 -06'00'

Suzanne J. Bohan, Director
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division

Enclosures

cc: Missy Haniewicz, EPA Regional Hearing Clerk
Gerald Healy, Vice President
Ina Nez Perce, Environmental Director
Delina Cuts the Rope, Chief Operations Officer
Sherry Bishop, Fort Belknap Indian Community
Robert Bearcub, Chief Financial Officer
Mitchell Healy, Water Quality Coordinator
Gene Talks Different, Operator
Mitchell Healy, Water Quality Coordinator