



REGION 8

DENVER, CO 80202

February 2, 2026

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**U.S. EPA REGION 8
HEARING CLERK**

Ref: 8ECA-W-S

SENT VIA EMAIL
DIGITAL DELIVERY RECEIPT REQUESTED

The Honorable Randall Werk Sr., President
Fort Belknap Indian Community Council
randall.werk@ftbelknap.org

Ms. Kasey Ramone, Director
Prairie Mountain Utilities
kasey.ramone@ftbelknap.org

Subj: Emergency Administrative Order Addendum, The Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Tribes of the Fort Belknap Indian Community and Prairie Mountain Utilities regarding Fort Belknap Agency Public Water System, PWS ID #083090041, Docket # SDWA-08-2026-0029

Dear President Werk and Director Ramone:

This is an Addendum to the Emergency Administrative Order (Order) issued to the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Tribes of the Fort Belknap Indian Community (FBIC) and Prairie Mountain Utilities (PMU) on December 23, 2025. The purpose of this letter is to approve PMU and FBIC's December 30, 2025, schedule (Schedule) for coming into consistent compliance related to the damaged tank roof and required corrective measures of the Order. The Schedule is hereby incorporated into the Order pursuant to paragraph 18. Each milestone and deadline specified below is an enforceable provision of the Order.

| <u>Milestone</u> | <u>Deadline</u> | <u>Projected Cost</u> |
|---|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Temporary Corrective Action Plan | | |
| 1) Posted boil water order for the public. (Facebook, Public places, Radio station). Boil water order | Posted on 12-19-2025 | N/A |

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| will stay posted until notified by the EPA that PMU can discontinue the posting. | | |
| 2) Provided an alternative water source until EPA notifies PMU. | 12-23-2025 | \$100,000 as of 12-29-2025 Cost of water and labor to distribute water |
| 3) Water Plant Manager Gene Talks Different reports daily (Monday through Friday) updates on the progress of corrective actions, disinfecting and flushing the System, special sampling etc. | Started on 12-23-2025. Will continue until EPA provides written notification to the Respondents that the reports can be discontinued. | Labor cost of daily tank inspection and reporting. Disinfecting/flushing-labor. Sampling-cost of lab fee, labor, gas |
| 4) PMU has been working closely with Christina Carballal-Broome and Steven Latino at EPA Region 8. Water Plant Manager and workers have covered the hole in the roof with a tarp while waiting for manufacturer to permanently fix hole. | Tarp placed over hole on 12-23-25 | Crane rental \$845.00 per day Tarp & safety gear Staff labor |
| 5) PMU created a temporary fix: 96 Bar Contracting out of Saco, MT has fabricated a piece of aluminum to repair the hole. | January 12, 2026 | Aluminum sheeting- Labor and fuel cost- \$2500 |
| 6) Disinfect and flush the system. | January 13, 2026 | Labor cost, chemical cost |
| 7) Collect two “special” samples collect daily (two samples per day, one sample from a location after the storage tank, and one sample from an approved location in the distribution system) until notified in writing | Beginning on the first date when chlorine levels returned to normal | N/A |

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| by the EPA that the samples may be discontinued. Email each result to the EPA immediately upon receipt of the analysis from the laboratory. | | |
| 8) After PMU receives written notification from the EPA to discontinue consecutive daily “special” total coliform sampling, PMU shall collect weekly “special” total coliform samples (one sample per week from a location in the distribution system) until notified in writing by the EPA that the samples may be discontinued. Email each result to the EPA immediately upon receipt of the analysis from the laboratory. | When notified by EPA. | N/A |
| 9) Resume monthly routine total coliform sampling as required by 40 C.F.R. § 141.854 to determine compliance. | After being notified by the EPA that consecutive daily samples may be discontinued | N/A |
| Permanent Corrective Action Plan | | |
| 10) PMU has contacted the manufacturer who will order replacement pieces to permanently fix the hole. | March 31, 2026 | Great Plains Structure, LLC (605)881-8194 \$75,000 |
| 11) Prior to beginning permanent replacement project and post boil water order for the public. (Facebook, Public places, Radio station). Boil water order will stay posted until notified by the EPA that PMU can discontinue the posting. | When notified by EPA | N/A |
| 12) Provided an alternative water source until EPA notifies PMU. | When notified by EPA. | Cost of water and labor to distribute water |
| 13) Water Plant Manager Gene Talks Different reports daily | When notified by EPA | Labor cost of daily tank |

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| (Monday through Friday) updates on the progress of corrective actions, disinfecting and flushing the System, special sampling etc. | | inspection and reporting. Disinfecting/flushing-labor. Sampling-cost of lab fee, labor, gas |
| 14) Notify the EPA of construction completion | When permanent replacement pieces have been installed. | N/A |
| 15) Continue to disinfect and flush the system. | When notified by EPA. | Labor cost, chemical cost |
| 16) Collect two “special” samples collect daily (two samples per day, one sample from a location after the storage tank, and one sample from an approved location in the distribution system) until notified in writing by the EPA that the samples may be discontinued. Email each result to the EPA immediately upon receipt of the analysis from the laboratory. | Beginning on the first date [when chlorine levels returned to normal] following disinfection and flushing and continuing until receiving written notification from the EPA. | N/A |
| 17) After PMU receives written notification from the EPA to discontinue consecutive daily “special” total coliform sampling, PMU shall collect weekly “special” total coliform samples (one sample per week from a location in the distribution system) until notified in writing by the EPA that the samples may be discontinued. Email each result to the EPA immediately upon receipt of the analysis from the laboratory. | When notified by EPA. | N/A |
| 18) Notify the EPA of the project’s completion as required by the Order. | Within 10 calendar days of completing all above-mentioned steps. | N/A |

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Per paragraph 17 of the Order, FBIC and PMU are required to provide the public with an alternative potable water supply that is available at no cost to all users of the System as needed for drinking, hand washing, cooking, maintaining oral hygiene, and dish washing. FBIC and PMU shall provide at least two liters of potable water daily per person at a central location that is accessible to all persons served by the System. The alternate water supply shall be made available until Respondent receives written notification from the EPA that it is no longer necessary to supply it.

The EPA is authorized to seek penalties if these deadlines are not met. If FBIC and PMU have a reasonable basis to believe they may be unable to meet any deadline in the Schedule, they must notify the EPA well in advance of the Schedule deadline to request an extension. The EPA may, in its discretion, consider granting an extension.

If you have any questions or to request an informal conference with the EPA, please contact Steven Latino via email at latino.steven@epa.gov, or by phone at (800) 227-8917, extension 6440, or (303) 312-6440. Any questions from the FBIC and PMU's attorney should be directed to Matt Castelli, Senior Assistant Regional Counsel, via email at castelli.matthew@epa.gov or by phone at (800) 227-8917, extension 6491, or (303) 312-6491.

Sincerely,

Suzanne J. Bohan, Director
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division

cc:

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