REGION 3
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103

FILED
Apr 27, 2026
11:05 am
U.S. EPA REGION 3
HEARING CLERK

In the Matter of:	:	
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West Buffalo Twp Mun Auth	:	**U.S. EPA Docket No. SDWA-03-2026-0182DS**
P.O. Box 237	:	
Mifflinburg, PA 17844-0237	:	**Proceeding under Section 1414(g) of the**
	:	**Safe Drinking Water Act,**
Respondent.	:	**42 U.S.C. Section 300g-3(g)**
	:	
PWS ID No. PA4600015	:	
	:	
System.	:	
	:	

I. STATUTORY AUTHORITY

The following FINDINGS are made and ORDER ("ORDER") issued under the authority vested in the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") by Section 1414(g) of the Safe Drinking Water Act ("SDWA"), 42 U.S.C. Section 300g-3(g) ("the Act"), and duly delegated to the Director of the Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division of Region 3.

II. FINDINGS

1. West Buffalo Twp Mun Auth (hereinafter "Respondent") owns and/or operates the West Buffalo Twp Mun Auth "public water system" (the "PWS" or "System") located at P.O. Box 237, Mifflinburg, PA 17844-0237. A "public water system" is defined in the Act as "a system for the provision to the public of water for human consumption through pipes or other constructed conveyances, if such system has at least fifteen service connections or regularly serves at least twenty-five individuals." Section 1401(4) of the SDWA, 42 U.S.C. §300f(4).

2. Respondent is a "supplier of water" within the meaning of Section 1401(5) of the SDWA, 42 U.S.C. §300f(5) and 40 C.F.R. §141.2.

3. Respondent is a "person" within the meaning of Section 1401(12) of the SDWA, 42 U.S.C. §300f(12), and is subject to an Administrative Order ("AO") issued under Section 1414(g)(1) of the SDWA, 42 U.S.C. §300g-3(g)(1).

4. Community Water System. The System serves at least 15 service connections used by year-round residents or regularly serves a population of at least 25 individuals year-round and is therefore a "community water system" as defined by Section 1401(15) of the SDWA, 42 U.S.C. §300f(15) and 40 C.F.R. §141.2. Respondent is, therefore, subject to the requirements of Part B of the SDWA, 42 U.S.C. §300g et seq., and its implementing regulations found at 40 C.F.R Part 141.

Lead and Copper Rules

5. In 1991, EPA published the Lead and Copper Rule ("LCR"), 40 C.F.R. Part 141 Subpart I, to minimize lead and copper in drinking water. The LCR established action levels of 0.015 mg/L for lead and 1.3 mg/L for copper; a maximum contaminant level goal ("MCLG") of 0 mg/L for lead and 1.3 mg/L for copper; and includes requirements to monitor at the tap, optimize corrosion control (and if appropriate, treat source water), deliver public education, and replace lead service lines. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §141.80(a), the LCR is applicable to community water systems and non-transient non-community water systems.

6. Since 1991, the LCR has undergone various revisions. In 2000, EPA published revisions to the LCR, known as LCR Minor Revisions, to address implementation issues and streamline and reduce the monitoring and reporting burden. In 2004, EPA published minor corrections to the LCR to reinstate text that was inadvertently dropped from the rule in previous revisions. In 2007, EPA promulgated the LCR Short-Term Revisions to enhance implementation in the areas of monitoring, treatment, customer awareness, and lead service line replacement.

7. On January 15, 2021, EPA promulgated the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions ("LCRR"). Then, on December 6, 2023, EPA published the proposed Lead and Copper Rule Improvements ("LCRI") which was finalized on October 8, 2024. The LCRI will supersede the LCRR in November 2027. The LCRI modifies most of the requirements in the LCRR and establishes a compliance date of November 1, 2027, for those provisions. The LCRI also incorporates select provisions from the 2021 LCRR[1], including the October 16, 2024, compliance deadline for initial service line inventories.

[1] Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. 141.80(a)(4), between October 30, 2024, and November 1, 2027, community water systems and non-transient non-community water systems must comply with 40 CFR 141.2, 141.31(d), and 141.80 through 141.91, as codified on July 1, 2020, except systems must also comply with 40 CFR 141.84(a)(1) through (10) (excluding paragraphs (a)(6) and (7)), 141.85(a)(1)(ii) and (e), 141.90(e)(1) and (13), (f)(4), and (h)(3), 141.201(a)(3)(vi) and (c)(3), and 141.202(a)(10); 40 CFR part 141, appendix A to subpart Q, entry I.C.1 (excluding § 141.90, except paragraphs (e)(1) and (13) and (f)(4)) and entry I.C.2; 40 CFR part 141, appendix B to subpart Q, entry D.23; and 40 CFR 141.31(d)(2), as codified on July 1, 2024.

8. Until a State, Tribe, or Territory has primary enforcement authority for a new or revised National Primary Drinking Water Regulation ("NPDWR"), such as the LCRR and LCRI, Section 1413 of the SDWA, 42 U.S.C. § 300g-2, states that only EPA can enforce the NPDWR pursuant to Section 1414 of the SDWA, 42 U.S.C. § 300g-3(a). In addition, when the State does not have primacy for a new or revised rule, EPA Regional Administrator is the primacy agency for purposes of implementation of the NPDWR pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 141.2.

9. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection ("PADEP") administers the Public Water System Supervision Program in Pennsylvania pursuant to Section 1413 of the SDWA, 42 U.S.C. § 300g-2. On January 3, 1985, EPA approved Pennsylvania's application for primary enforcement responsibility ("primacy") under the SDWA, effective February 4, 1985. On August 6, 2003, the EPA approved Pennsylvania's revisions to its approved State Public Water System Supervision Primacy Program including regulations for lead and copper, effective September 5, 2003. PADEP administers the "Approved State primacy program," as that term is defined in 40 C.F.R. §142.2. However, as of the date of this Order, PADEP has not obtained primacy for the LCRR or LCRI.

10. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §§ 141.84(a) and 141.90(e)(1), water systems must submit an initial service line inventory to the State[2] by October 16, 2024. The inventory must identify the materials of service lines connected to the public water distribution system, regardless of ownership status (*e.g.,* where service line ownership is shared, the inventory includes both the portion of the service line owned by the water system and the portion of the service line owned by the customer). Each service line must be categorized as lead, galvanized requiring replacement, non-lead, or lead status unknown, in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 141.84(a)(4).

11. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 141.85(e), within thirty (30) days of completing the initial service line inventory, water systems must inform customers and all persons served at the service connection if the service line is known to contain lead or may potentially contain lead. Repeat notification is required on an annual basis until the entire service connection is no longer a lead, galvanized requiring replacement, or lead status unknown service line. Content of the notice must be in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 141.85(e)(3) and must be provided by mail or another method approved by the State.

12. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 141.84(a)(5)(ii), the service line materials inventory must be publicly accessible.

13. EPA provided notification to an appropriate local elected official prior to the issuance of the Order, in accordance with Section 1414(a)(2)(B) of SDWA, 42 U.S.C. § 300g-3(a)(2)(B).

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[2] State is defined in 40 C.F.R § 141.2 to mean "the agency of the State or Tribal government which has jurisdiction over public water systems. During any period when a State or Tribal government does not have primary enforcement responsibility pursuant to section 1413 of the Act, the term "State" means the Regional Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency."

Findings of Violation

14. The System is a community water system and is, therefore, subject to the requirements of 40 C.F.R. Part 141 Subpart I.

15. Based on information available to EPA, Respondent failed to submit the initial service line inventory to the State by the October 16, 2024, deadline. Respondent is, therefore, in violation of 40 C.F.R. §§ 141.84(a) and 141.90(e).

16. EPA is issuing this Order to address the violation(s) enumerated above and establish an enforceable schedule to bring Respondent into compliance with the SDWA and the LCRR and LCRI.

III. ORDER

Based on the foregoing FINDINGS, and pursuant to the authority of Section 1414(g) of the SDWA, EPA hereby ORDERS Respondent to do the following:

17. Initial Service Line Inventory Submission

    a. Within 30 calendar days of the Effective Date of this Order, Respondent shall submit its initial service line inventory, as required by 40 C.F.R. §§ 141.84(a) and 141.90(e).

    b. If Respondent needs additional time to submit its initial service line inventory because it is unable to comply within the timeframes specified in Paragraph 17, then within 30 calendar days of the Effective Date of the Order, Respondent shall submit a plan to achieve compliance with 40 C.F.R. §§ 141.84(a), 141.90(e), and 40 C.F.R. §141.85(e) for EPA's review and approval. The plan must, at a minimum, contain the following: (a) an explanation for why additional time is needed, (b) a schedule outlining the steps to be taken to comply with the initial service line inventory requirement, (c) the specific date by which the service line inventory will be submitted, (d) and a schedule for issuing notice to consumers served by lead service lines, galvanized requiring replacement, or lead status unknown.

        i. EPA will review the submission and will, in writing: either (i) accept the submission; (ii) accept the submission upon specified conditions; (iii) accept part of the submission and request resubmission of the remainder; or (iv) request a new submission.

        ii. Upon EPA's acceptance of the submission, or any part thereof, the Respondent will immediately commence implementation of the plan.

18. Notice to Persons Served

a. Within 30 calendar days of submitting the initial service line inventory, Respondent must provide notification of a service line that is known to contain, or may potentially contain, lead to customers and all persons served by the water system at the service connection with a lead, galvanized requiring replacement, or lead status unknown service line, with the information as required by 40 C.F.R. § 141.85(e)(1). The notification of known or potential service lines containing lead must be repeated on an annual basis until the entire service connection is no longer a lead, galvanized requiring replacement, or lead status unknown, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 141.85(e)(2). Content of the notice must be in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 141.85(a)(3) and must be provided by mail or another method approved by EPA.

b. Within 45 calendar days of submitting the initial service line inventory, Respondent shall certify to EPA that its service line inventory is accessible to the public, as required by 40 CFR § 141.84(a)(5), including a description of how it has been made accessible, and submit to EPA a sample copy of the notification letter to persons served at the service connection by a lead, galvanized requiring replacement, or lead status unknown service line.

19. All submissions and communications related to this Order shall be submitted via electronic mail to the following:

Andrea Lewis
Safe Drinking Water Act and Wetlands Section
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division
US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3
lewis.andrea@epa.gov
(215) 814-2074

and

Jeff Allgyer
Environmental Group Manager
Office of Environmental Health Services
Bureau of Safe Drinking Water
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
jallgyer@pa.gov
(717) 772-4015

IV. GENERAL PROVISIONS

20. All notices, reports, or other submissions by Respondent shall be accompanied by the following certification:

> "I certify, under penalty of law, that the information contained in or accompanying this submission is true, accurate and complete based upon representations as to accuracy and completeness made to me either orally or through submission of documentation by appropriate personnel with responsibility for the matters contained herein. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations in accordance with 18 U.S.C. § 1001."

21. Notwithstanding Respondent's compliance with any requirement of this Order, Respondent's failure to comply with all the requirements of the SDWA and 40 C.F.R. Part 141 may subject Respondent to additional enforcement action, including but not limited to judicial, administrative, and equitable actions.

22. This Administrative Order shall not prohibit, prevent, or otherwise preclude EPA from taking whatever action it deems appropriate to enforce the SDWA in any manner and shall not prohibit, prevent, or otherwise preclude EPA from using this Order in subsequent administrative or judicial proceedings. Nothing in this Order shall constitute a waiver, suspension or modification of the requirements of the SDWA, or the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder which remain in full force and effect. Issuance of this Order is not an election by EPA to forgo any civil or criminal action otherwise authorized under the Law.

23. Respondent may seek federal judicial review of the Order pursuant to Section 1448(a) of the SDWA, 42 U.S.C. §300j-7(a).

24. This Order does not relieve Respondent of any responsibilities or liabilities established pursuant to any applicable federal, state, or local law.

V. OPPORTUNITY TO CONFER

25. Respondent may request a conference with EPA concerning the violations alleged in this Order as well as the terms and conditions of this Order. Respondent may present evidence bearing on the findings of violation, on the nature of the violations, and on any efforts, it may have taken or it proposes to take to achieve compliance. Respondent may have legal counsel at the conference.

26. Respondent's request for a conference must be confirmed in writing via email within five (5) calendar days of receipt of this Order. Any such conference shall be held no later than ten (10) calendar days after the conference is requested. Any request for a conference, or other

inquiries concerning this Order should be made in writing to Andrea Lewis at lewis.andrea@epa.gov.

VI. TERMINATION

27. The obligations of this Order shall terminate when EPA determines that the Respondent has fully complied with the Order's terms and conditions, and EPA provides written notice of its determination to Respondent.

28. The Respondent may submit to EPA a Certification of Compliance and Request for Termination of this Order, including documentation to demonstrate that it has met all requirements of this Order. If, following review of any Certification of Compliance and Request for Termination of this Order, EPA agrees that the Respondent has adequately complied with all requirements of this Order, EPA shall provide written notification of termination of this Order, as described in the previous paragraph.

VII. EFFECTIVE DATE

29. This Order shall become effective five (5) calendar days from the date of receipt of this Order (Effective Date), or, if a conference is requested per Paragraphs 26 and 27, this Order shall become effective five (5) calendar days after the conference is held (Effective Date).

IT IS SO ORDERED:

ANDREA BAIN

Digitally signed by ANDREA BAIN
Date: 2026.04.24 13:27:12 -04'00'

Andrea Bain
Acting Director
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 3
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

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West Buffalo Twp Mun Auth	:	**U.S. EPA Docket No. SDWA-03-2026-0182DS**
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	:	**Safe Drinking Water Act,**
Respondent.		**42 U.S.C. Section 300g-3(g)**

PWS ID No. PA4600015

System.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that the foregoing ***Order*** was filed with EPA Region 3 Regional Hearing Clerk on the date that has been electronically stamped on the ***Order***. I further certify that on the date set forth below, I caused to be served a true and correct copy of the foregoing to each of the following persons, in the manner specified below, at the following addresses:

Copies served via email to:

Robert Valentine
West Buffalo Twp Mun Auth
rhre@engineer.com
P.O. Box 237
Mifflinburg, PA 17844-0237

Andrea Lewis
U.S. EPA, Region 3
lewis.andrea@epa.gov

By: BEVIN ESPOSITO Digitally signed by BEVIN ESPOSITO Date: 2026.04.27 11:06:41 -04'00'
[*Digital Signature and Date*]
Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. EPA – Region 3