



REGION 8

DENVER, CO 80202

FILED

Aug 13, 2025

11:53 am

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

August 13, 2025

Ref: 8ECA-W-S

SENT VIA EMAIL
DIGITAL DELIVERY RECEIPT REQUESTED

South Chouteau County Water District
c/o Mr. Brent Hanford, President
South Chouteau County Water and Sewer District Public Water System
76online@itstriangle.com

Subj: Administrative Order issued to South Chouteau County Water District regarding
South Chouteau County Water and Sewer District Public Water System,
PWS ID #MT0001925, Docket No. SDWA-08-2025-0032

Dear Mr. Hanford:

Enclosed is an Administrative Order (Order) issued by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under the authority of section 1414(g) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300g-3(g). Among other things, the Order alleges that South Chouteau County Water District (District), as owner and operator of the South Chouteau County Water and Sewer District Public Water System (System), has violated the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI), specifically 40 C.F.R. § 141.84, 141.85, and 141.90 (Part 141). The EPA is issuing this Order because the State of Montana's (State) previous compliance assurance efforts have not been effective in returning the System to compliance with Part 141, and the State has not yet obtained primary enforcement responsibility for the LCRI.

The Order is effective upon the date received. Please review the Order and within 10 business days provide the EPA with any pertinent information you believe the EPA may not have regarding your development or submittal of the required Lead Service Line Inventory. If the EPA does not hear from you, the EPA will assume this information is correct. Please note if the District chooses to submit a plan and schedule to address submitting the Lead Service Line Inventory, the final date should be no greater than six months from the effective date of this order, unless the District can provide documentation of extenuating circumstances. If the District complies with the Order, the EPA may close the Order without further action.

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The Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act (SBREFA) may apply to this situation. Enclosed is a small business information sheet, outlining compliance assistance resources available to small businesses and small entities, in case these are relevant. SBREFA does not eliminate the responsibility to comply with the Order or Part 141. Also enclosed are several templates and fact sheets to assist the District in addressing the outstanding violations.

If you have any questions or to request an informal conference with the EPA, please contact Rachel Brookins via email at brookins.rachel@epa.gov, or by phone at (800) 227-8917, extension 6509, or (303) 312-6509. Any questions from your attorney should be directed to Mia Bearley, Senior Assistant Regional Counsel, via email at bearley.mia@epa.gov or by phone at (800) 227-8917, extension 6554, or (303) 312-6554. We urge your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Colleen Rathbone, Manager
Water Enforcement Branch
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division

ENCLOSURES

cc:

Chouteau County Commissioners
Greg Montgomery, MDEQ Lead Reduction in School Drinking Water Rule Manager
Scott Patterson, MDEQ Public Water Supply Bureau Compliance Officer
Libby Henrikson, Technical/Operator Certification Section Supervisor
EPA Regional Hearing Clerk
Bret Bahnmler, Clerk