



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 8, MONTANA OFFICE  
FEDERAL BUILDING, 10 W. 15<sup>th</sup> STREET, SUITE 3200  
HELENA, MONTANA 59628

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EPA REGION VIII  
HELENA, MONTANA

Ref: 8MO

Tracy King, President  
Fort Belknap Indian Community  
R.R. 1, Box 66  
Harlem, MT 59526

Margaret Nicholson, Director  
Prairie Mountain Utilities  
RR 1, Box 91  
Fort Belknap Agency, MT 59526

Re: Addendum to Amended  
Administrative Order  
Docket #SDWA-08-2007-0069  
Ft. Belknap Agency  
PWS ID #083090041

Dear President King and Ms. Nicholson:

The purpose of this letter is to discontinue the boil order imposed on the Fort Belknap Agency Public Water System in an Amended Administrative Order (AAO) issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to the Fort Belknap Indian Community and Prairie Mountain Utility on April 8, 2008. The boil order included in paragraph 11 of the AAO formalized the EPA's requirement of April 11, 2005, that the public in Ft. Belknap Agency be notified of the need to boil their drinking water. The 2005 requirement was a response to frequent violations of the turbidity and chlorine residual requirements specified under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). For the reasons set forth below, the boil order is lifted, effective immediately. Please note that with the exception of paragraph 11, all remaining requirements and conditions of the AAO remain in full force and effect until notified otherwise by EPA.

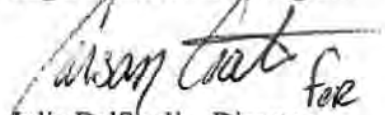
The last occurrence of a turbidity violation at Ft. Belknap Agency was on August 19, 2010, when a chemical metering pump failed and the water plant did not automatically shut down as designed. The operator was working at the water tank when this occurred and discovered the turbidity violation upon returning to the plant. The last occurrence of the chlorine residual falling below 0.2 mg/L for more than 4 hours was on March 28, 2010 when a contractor was operating the plant and did not notice a failure of the chlorine feed system. All total coliform samples results for the past year have also been safe.

There have been several instances since start up of the new plant when tanks have come close to running out of water due to problems at the plant. During low pressure or loss of pressure incidents, it is important that the public be notified of the need to boil the water to decrease their risk of consuming water contaminated by microorganisms. With an ongoing boil order in place over many years, it is difficult to ensure that the public is aware when a new increased risk of contamination occurs and they subsequently need to boil their water.

A problem corrected notice is attached for you to post in the community to notify the public that there is no longer a need to boil their water. However, please be advised that you must notify the public during every calendar quarter in which there are elevated levels of disinfection byproducts in your water system. Failure to provide this public notice is a violation of paragraph 14 of the AAO and the SDWA.

Sincerely,

Matthew Cohn, Director  
Legal Enforcement Program



Julie DalSoglio, Director  
EPA Region 8 Montana Office

Enclosure

cc: Scott Snow, Head Operator, Prairie Mountain Utilities  
Bum Stiffarm, CAO, Ft. Belknap Indian Community  
Andy Werk, Councilman, Ft. Belknap Indian Community  
Rob Adams, IHS  
Catherine Aragon, Attorney, Ft. Belknap Indian Community  
Tina Artemis, Regional Hearing Clerk, EPA  
Steve Troendle, USDA RD  
Carole Boerner, IHS

All ccs sent via email