

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8

Received by
EPA Region VIII
Hearing Clerk

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
High Elevation LLC,) Docket No. SDWA-08-2023-0022
)
Respondent.) **ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**
)
)
Crooked Creek Guest Ranch Public Water)
System)
PWS ID #WY5601542)

1. This Order is 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 (Act), 42 U.S.C. § 300g-3(g), as properly delegated to the undersigned official.
2. High Elevation LLC (Respondent) is a Wyoming company that owns and operates the Crooked Creek Guest Ranch Public Water System (System) which provides piped water to the public in Fremont County, Wyoming, for human consumption.
3. The System is supplied by a groundwater source accessed via three wells. The water is treated using calcium hypochlorite, which is introduced directly into each source well at the wellhead using a mechanized feeder.
4. The System has approximately 20 service connections and regularly serves an average of approximately 60 individuals daily at least 60 calendar days out of the year. Therefore, the System is a “public water system” as defined in section 1401(4) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300f(4), and 40 C.F.R. § 141.2. Further, the System is a non-community water system that does not regularly serve at least 25 of the same persons over six months per year and, as such, is also a “transient, non-community water system” as defined in 40 C.F.R. § 141.2.
5. Respondent is a “person” as defined in section 1401(12) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300f(12) and is subject to the Act and 40 C.F.R. part 141 (Part 141). Part 141 is an “applicable requirement” as defined in section 1414(i) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300g-3(i).
6. Part 141 includes monitoring requirements. The EPA has sent Respondent annual notifications of the specific monitoring requirements that apply to the System.

VIOLATIONS

7. Respondent is required to complete corrective action of a significant deficiency or comply with an EPA-approved corrective action plan and schedule within 120 calendar days (or earlier if instructed by the EPA) of receiving written notification from the EPA of a significant deficiency. 40 C.F.R. § 141.404(a). Respondent is required to notify the EPA within 30 calendar days of completion of a significant deficiency corrective action. 40 C.F.R. § 141.405(a)(2). The EPA sent the System a sanitary survey report dated November 13, 2019, which detailed significant deficiencies. The EPA approved a corrective action schedule to complete corrective actions by January 15, 2022. The EPA’s record reflects that the System failed to complete all corrective actions by January 15, 2022, and therefore, violated this

requirement. Respondent took over the System as of November 11, 2022. EPA notified Respondent of significant deficiencies on November 16, 2022. The EPA's record reflects that the Respondent failed to complete all corrective actions by March 16, 2023, and therefore, violated this requirement.

8. Respondent is required to monitor the System's water monthly for total coliform bacteria. 40 C.F.R. §§ 141.853-858. Respondent failed to monitor the System's water for total coliform bacteria during November of 2022, and March and April of 2023, and therefore, violated this requirement.

9. Respondent is required to notify the public of certain violations of Part 141 and, within 10 calendar days after completing public notice, provide a copy of the public notice and certification to the EPA. 40 C.F.R. §§ 141.31(d) and 141.201-141.211. The violation identified in paragraph 7, above, is classified as a violation requiring Tier 2 public notice within 30 calendar days, according to 40 C.F.R. § 141.203. The EPA's records reflect that the Respondent failed to notify the public of the violation cited in paragraph 7 and failed to submit a copy of the public notice and certification to the EPA and therefore, violated this requirement.

10. Respondent is required to report any failure to comply with Part 141 to the EPA within 48 hours 40 C.F.R. § 141.31(b). Respondent failed to report the violation cited in paragraph 7, above, to the EPA and therefore, violated this requirement.

11. Respondent is required to report any violation of total coliform monitoring requirements to the EPA within 10 calendar days after discovering the violation. 40 C.F.R. § 141.861(a)(4). Respondent failed to report the violation listed in paragraph 8, above, to the EPA and therefore, violated this requirement.

ORDER

Respondent is ordered to perform the following actions upon Respondent's receipt of this Order (unless a different deadline is specified below):

12. Respondent is ordered to comply with all provisions of the Act and Part 141, including but not limited to each requirement cited above.

13. Within 30 calendar days of receipt of this Order, Respondent shall consult with the EPA regarding actions to correct significant deficiencies and shall submit a proposed schedule and plan to the EPA for completion of all corrective actions specified below. The plan shall include proposed modifications to the System and estimated costs of modifications. The EPA will review the proposed schedule and any approved schedule (Schedule) shall be incorporated into this Order with each milestone to be an enforceable requirement upon written approval by the EPA. Within 10 calendar days after completing all tasks included in the Schedule, Respondent shall notify the EPA of the project's completion. Respondent shall provide sufficient evidence of the project's completion to the EPA, including photographs of the corrective actions. Thereafter, if the EPA identifies any significant deficiency at the System, Respondent shall complete

corrective action for each significant deficiency and provide notification to the EPA within 30 calendar days of completion, as required by 40 C.F.R. §§ 141.403(a) and 141.405(a)(2).

Corrective Action:

- Well WL02: Kitchen Well #2 must be fitted with a functioning sanitary seal that is tightly bolted and does not allow contamination to enter the well.

14. Respondent shall monitor the System's water monthly for total coliform bacteria. If a sample is positive for total coliform, within 24 hours of being notified of the positive result, Respondent shall collect a set of three repeat samples for each total coliform-positive sample. 40 C.F.R. § 141.853-858. Respondent shall report results to the EPA within the first 10 calendar days following the end of the required monitoring period. 40 C.F.R. § 141.31(a).

15. Within 30 calendar days after receipt of this Order, and quarterly thereafter as long as the violation cited in paragraph 7, above, persists, Respondent shall notify the public of this violation. Thereafter, following any future violation of Part 141, Respondent shall comply with any applicable public notice provisions of 40 C.F.R. part 141, subpart Q. Within 10 calendar days after providing public notice, Respondent shall submit a copy of the notice and certification to the EPA. 40 C.F.R. § 141.31(d). Templates and instructions are available at: <https://www.epa.gov/region8-waterops/reporting-forms-drinking-water-systems-wyoming-and-tribal-lands-epa-region-8#pn>.

16. Respondent shall report any violation of Part 141 to the EPA within 48 hours of the violation occurring, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 141.31(b). However, if a different time period for reporting is specified in this Order or Part 141, Respondent shall report within that different period.

17. Respondent shall report any violation of total coliform monitoring requirements to the EPA within 10 calendar days after discovering the violation and notify the public in accordance with subpart Q of this part, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 141.861(a)(4).

18. If Respondent (a) leases or sells the System to another person or entity, or (b) contracts with or hires any other person or entity to operate the System, Respondent must, within 10 calendar days, provide a copy of this Order to the lessee, purchaser, or contractor and notify the EPA in writing of the change. In either of these circumstances, Respondent will remain obligated to comply with this Order.

19. Respondent must send all reporting and notifications required by this Order to the EPA at:

Email: R8DWU@epa.gov, and latino.steven@epa.gov

GENERAL PROVISIONS

20. This Order is binding on Respondent, its successors and assigns, and any person (*e.g.*, employee, contractor, or other agent) acting in concert with Respondent.

21. This Order does not constitute a waiver, suspension, or modification of any requirement of the Act or Part 141. Issuance of this Order is not an election by the EPA to forgo any civil or criminal action.
22. Violation of any part of this Order, the Act, or Part 141 may subject Respondent to a civil penalty of up to \$67,544 (as adjusted for inflation) per day of violation, a court injunction ordering compliance, or both. 42 U.S.C. § 300g-3; 40 C.F.R. part 19; 88 Fed. Reg. at 989 (January 6, 2023).
23. Respondent may seek federal judicial review of this Order pursuant to section 1448(a) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300j-7(a).

Issued: August 10, 2023.

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