



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 8

1595 Wynkoop Street  
DENVER, CO 80202-1129  
Phone 800-227-8917  
<http://www.epa.gov/region08>

JUN 11 2015

Ref: 8ENF-W

CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

James R. Webb, Registered Agent  
Lower Valley Energy, Inc.  
P.O. Box 188  
Afton, Wyoming 83110

John Ryan, Operator  
P.O. Box 1687  
Jackson, Wyoming 83001

Re: Administrative Order regarding Lower Valley Energy, Inc. and John Ryan,  
PWS ID #5601403, Docket # **SDWA-08-2015-0021**

Dear Messrs. Webb and Ryan:

Enclosed is an Administrative Order (Order) issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 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 you, as owners and/or operators of the Lower Valley Energy, Inc., Public Water System (System), have violated the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations at 40 C.F.R. part 141 (Drinking Water Regulations).

The Order is effective upon the date received. Please review the Order and within 10 days provide the EPA with any information you believe the EPA may not have (e.g., any monitoring that may have been done but not submitted, any updates to the numbers of connections and/or individuals served, etc.). If the EPA does not hear from you, the EPA will assume this information is correct.

If you comply with the Order, the EPA may close the Order without further action. Failure to comply with the Order may lead to substantial civil penalties and/or a federal court injunction ordering compliance.

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 governments, in case these are relevant. SBREFA does not eliminate the responsibility to comply with the Order or the Drinking Water Regulations.

To submit information or to request an informal conference with the EPA, please contact Kathelene Brainich at the above address (with the mailcode 8ENF-W), via email at [brainich.kathelene@epa.gov](mailto:brainich.kathelene@epa.gov),

or by phone at (800) 227-8917, extension 6481 or (303) 312-6481. Any questions from your attorney should be directed to Mia Bearley, Enforcement Attorney, who may be reached at the above address (with the mailcode 8ENF-L), via email at [bearley.mia@epa.gov](mailto: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,

*Arturo Palomares* for.

Arturo Palomares, Director  
Water Technical Enforcement Program  
Office of Enforcement, Compliance  
and Environmental Justice

Enclosures

1. Order
2. SBREFA information sheet

cc: WY DEQ/DOH (via email)  
Tina Artemis, EPA Regional Hearing Clerk





UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 8

1595 Wynkoop Street  
Denver, CO 80202-1129  
Phone 800-227-8917  
www.epa.gov/region08

JUN 11 2015

Ref: 8ENF-W

CERTIFIED MAIL LETTER  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Teton County Commissioners  
c/o Melissa Turley, Chair  
200 S. Willow  
Jackson, Wyoming 83001

Re: Notice of Safe Drinking Water Act Enforcement Action against Lower Valley Energy, Inc.  
PWS ID WY5601403

Dear Commissioners:

The Safe Drinking Water Act requires that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) notify locally elected officials of certain enforcement actions taken in their area.

An Administrative Order (Order) is being issued to Lower Valley Energy Inc., and John Ryan, as owners and/or operators of the Lower Valley Energy, Inc., Public Water System, located in Teton County, directing it to comply with the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations. The violations alleged in the Order are failure to monitor for nitrate and failure to notify the EPA of the violation.

For more details, a copy of the Order is enclosed for your information. **The Order does not require any response or action by the County Commission.** If you have any questions regarding this Order, please contact Kathelene Brainich at (303) 312-6481.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Arturo Palomares".

Arturo Palomares, Director  
Water Technical Enforcement Program  
Office of Enforcement, Compliance  
and Environmental Justice

Enclosure



Printed on Recycled Paper

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 8

2015 JUN 11 AM 10:27

IN THE MATTER OF: )
Lower Valley Energy, LLC )
and )
John Ryan, )
Respondents. )

Docket No. SDWA-08-2015-0021

FILED
EPA REGION VIII
HEARING CLERK

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

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 officials.

2. Lower Valley Energy, Inc., is a Wyoming non-profit corporation and John Ryan is an individual that owns and/or operates the Lower Valley Energy, LLC Public Water System (System), which provides piped water to the public in Teton County, Wyoming, for human consumption. Lower Valley Energy, Inc., and John Ryan are collectively referred to as "Respondents" in this Order.

3. The System is supplied by a groundwater source accessed by one well. The System's water is untreated.

4. The System has approximately 5 service connections and regularly serves an average of approximately 50 of the same individuals daily for at least six months 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. The System is also a "non-transient, non-community" water system as defined in 40 C.F.R. § 141.2.

5. Respondents are subject to the Act and the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (Drinking Water Regulations) at 40 C.F.R. part 141. The Drinking Water Regulations are "applicable requirements" as defined in section 1414(i) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300g-3(i).

VIOLATIONS

6. Respondents are required to monitor the System's water annually for nitrate. 40 C.F.R. § 141.23(d). Respondents failed to monitor the System's water for nitrate during 2014 and, therefore, violated this requirement.

7. Respondents are required to report any failure to comply with any Drinking Water Regulation to the EPA within 48 hours (except where the Drinking Water Regulations specify a different time period). 40 C.F.R. § 141.31(b). Respondents failed to report the violations cited in paragraph 6 above, to the EPA and, therefore, violated this requirement.

## **ORDER**

Based on the above violations, Respondents are ordered to perform the following actions upon Respondents' receipt of this Order (unless a different deadline is specified below):

8. Within 30 days after receipt of this Order, and as required by the Drinking Water Regulations thereafter, Respondents shall monitor the System's water for nitrate. 40 C.F.R. § 141.23. Respondents shall report analytical results to the EPA within the first 10 days following the month in which Respondents received sample results, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 141.31(a). Respondents shall report any violation of the nitrate monitoring requirements to the EPA within 48 hours of the violation occurring, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 141.31(b).

9. This Order shall be binding on Respondents, their successors and assigns, and any person (e.g., employee, contractor, or other agent) acting in concert with Respondents.

10. If Respondents (a) lease or sell the System to another person or entity, or (b) contract with or hire any other person or entity to operate the System, Respondents shall, no later than the date of such lease, sale, or other contract, provide a copy of this Order to the lessee, purchaser, or contractor. No later than 10 days thereafter, Respondents shall notify the EPA in writing of the lease, sale, or other contract, with such notification to include the name and contact information of the person who has leased, bought, or contracted to operate the System. Respondents shall remain obligated to comply with this Order even if Respondents lease the System to another person or entity or hire another person or entity to operate the System.

11. Respondents shall direct all reporting required by this Order to:

U.S. EPA Region 8 (8P-W-DW)  
1595 Wynkoop Street  
Denver, CO 80202-1129

## **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

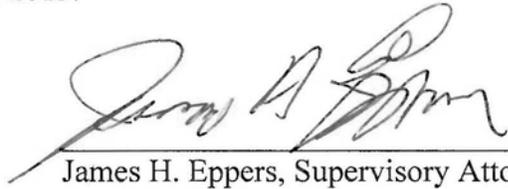
12. This Order shall not constitute a waiver, suspension, or modification of any requirement of the Act or Drinking Water Regulations. Issuance of this Order is not an election by the EPA to forgo any civil or criminal action.

13. Violation of any part of this Order or the Drinking Water Regulations may subject Respondents to a civil penalty of up to \$37,500 (as adjusted for inflation) per day of violation. 42 U.S.C. § 300g-3; 40 C.F.R. part 19.

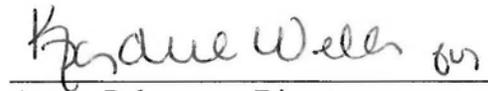
14. Respondents may seek federal judicial review of this Order pursuant to section 1448(a) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300j-7(a).

15. This Order is effective upon receipt by Respondents and will continue to be in effect until closed by the EPA.

Issued: June 11, 2015.



James H. Eppers, Supervisory Attorney  
Legal Enforcement Program  
Office of Enforcement, Compliance  
and Environmental Justice



Arturo Palomares, Director  
Water Technical Enforcement Program  
Office of Enforcement, Compliance  
and Environmental Justice



## U.S. EPA Small Business Resources Information Sheet

The United States Environmental Protection Agency provides an array of resources to help small businesses understand and comply with federal and state environmental laws. In addition to helping small businesses understand their environmental obligations and improve compliance, these resources will also help such businesses find cost-effective ways to comply through pollution prevention techniques and innovative technologies.

### Small Business Programs

[www.epa.gov/smallbusiness](http://www.epa.gov/smallbusiness)  
EPA's Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP) advocates and fosters opportunities for direct and indirect partnerships, contracts, and sub-agreements for small businesses and socio-economically disadvantaged businesses.

### EPA's Asbestos Small Business Ombudsman

[www.epa.gov/sbo](http://www.epa.gov/sbo) or 1-800-368-5888  
The EPA Asbestos and Small Business Ombudsman (ASBO) serves as a conduit for small businesses to access EPA and facilitates communications between the small business community and the Agency.

### EPA's Compliance Assistance Homepage

[www2.epa.gov/compliance](http://www2.epa.gov/compliance)  
This page is a gateway industry and statute-specific environmental resources, from extensive web-based information to hotlines and compliance assistance specialists.

### EPA's Compliance Assistance Centers

[www.assistancecenters.net](http://www.assistancecenters.net)  
EPA's Compliance Assistance Centers provide information targeted to industries with many small businesses. They were developed in partnership with industry, universities and other federal and state agencies.

### Agriculture

[www.epa.gov/agriculture/](http://www.epa.gov/agriculture/)

### Automotive Recycling

[www.ecarcenter.org](http://www.ecarcenter.org)

**Automotive Service and Repair**  
[ccar-greenlink.org/](http://ccar-greenlink.org/) or 1-888-GRN-LINK

**Chemical Manufacturing**  
[www.chemalliance.org](http://www.chemalliance.org)

**Construction**  
[www.cicacenter.org](http://www.cicacenter.org) or 1-734-995-4911

**Education**  
[www.campuserc.org](http://www.campuserc.org)

**Food Processing**  
[www.fpeac.org](http://www.fpeac.org)

**Healthcare**  
[www.hercenter.org](http://www.hercenter.org)

**Local Government**  
[www.lgean.org](http://www.lgean.org)

**Metal Finishing**  
[www.nmfrf.org](http://www.nmfrf.org)

**Paints and Coatings**  
[www.paintcenter.org](http://www.paintcenter.org)

**Printing**  
[www.pneac.org](http://www.pneac.org)

**Ports**  
[www.portcompliance.org](http://www.portcompliance.org)

**Transportation**  
[www.tercenter.org](http://www.tercenter.org)

**U.S. Border Compliance and Import/Export Issues**  
[www.bordercenter.org](http://www.bordercenter.org)

### EPA Hotlines, Helplines and Clearinghouses

[www2.epa.gov/home/epa-hotlines](http://www2.epa.gov/home/epa-hotlines)  
EPA sponsors many free hotlines and clearinghouses that provide convenient assistance regarding environmental requirements. Some examples are:

**Clean Air Technology Center (CATC) Info-line**  
[www.epa.gov/ttn/catc](http://www.epa.gov/ttn/catc) or 1-919-541-0800

**Superfund, TRI, EPCRA, RMP and Oil Information Center**  
[www.epa.gov/superfund/contacts/infocenter/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/contacts/infocenter/index.htm) or 1-800-424-9346

**EPA Imported Vehicles and Engines Public Helpline**  
[www.epa.gov/otaq/imports](http://www.epa.gov/otaq/imports) or 734-214-4100

**National Pesticide Information Center**  
[www.npic.orst.edu/](http://www.npic.orst.edu/) or 1-800-858-7378

**National Response Center Hotline** to report oil and hazardous substance spills - [www.nrc.uscg.mil](http://www.nrc.uscg.mil) or 1-800-424-8802

**Pollution Prevention Information Clearinghouse (PPIC)** - [www.epa.gov/opptintr/ppic](http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/ppic) or 1-202-566-0799

**Safe Drinking Water Hotline** - [www.epa.gov/drink/hotline/index.cfm](http://www.epa.gov/drink/hotline/index.cfm) or 1-800-426-4791