



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 8

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

MAY 16 2011

Ref: 8ENF-W

CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Niki Smoker, Owner  
Horseshoe Bar  
P.O. Box 432  
Frazer, MT 59225

Re: Administrative Order  
Horseshoe Bar  
Public Water System  
Docket No. SDWA-08-2011-0043  
PWS ID #083090056

Dear Ms. Smoker:

Enclosed is an Administrative Order (Order) issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300f *et seq.* Among other things, the Order alleges that you have violated the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (the drinking water regulations).

The Order is effective upon the date received. Please review the Order and within 10 days provide EPA with any information you believe EPA may not have. If you comply with the Order, 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.

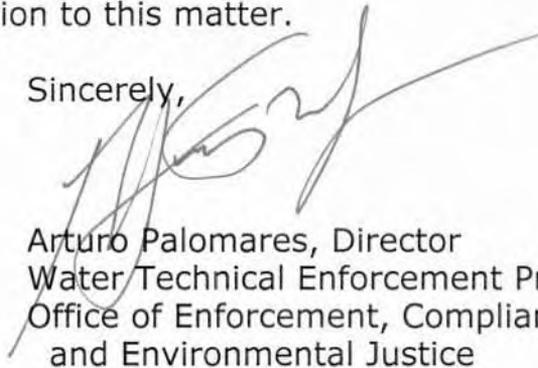
Please note that, as owner of the Horseshoe Bar, you are responsible for complying with the drinking water regulations regardless of whether you hire an outside contractor or receive voluntary assistance. Please do not hesitate to contact EPA if you have questions regarding the regulations.

The drinking water regulations require you to notify the public of violations. EPA has provided copies of forms and instructions for providing public notice as an attachment to this document. In the future, public notices can easily be accomplished with the assistance of the automated system available at the [www.pniwriter.org](http://www.pniwriter.org) website.

To submit information or to request an informal conference with EPA, please contact Kimberly Pardue Welch at the above address (with the mailcode 8ENF-W) or by phone at (800) 227-8917, extension 6983 or (303) 312-6983. Any questions from your attorney should be directed to Jean Belille, Enforcement Attorney, who may be reached at the above address (with the mailcode 8ENF-L) or by phone at (800) 227-8917, extension 6556 or (303) 312-6556.

We urge your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arturo Palomares', is written over the typed name and title.

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

Enclosures:

Order  
Public notice templates

cc:

Tina Artemis, EPA Regional Hearing Clerk  
Chairman Stafne, Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes  
Deb Madison, Environmental Director, Fort Peck Tribes



8. If the system has one or more total coliform positive samples, Respondent is required to collect at least 5 routine samples during the next month the system provides water to the public. 40 C.F.R. § 141.21(b)(5). After the system's water tested positive for total coliform on December 1, 2010 and December 27, 2010, Respondent failed to take at least 5 routine samples of the system's water in January 2011 and, therefore, violated this requirement.

9. Respondent is required to monitor the system's water quarterly for total coliform bacteria. 40 C.F.R. § 141.21. Respondent failed to monitor the system's water for total coliform bacteria during the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters of 2009 and, therefore, violated this requirement.

10. Respondent is required to monitor the system's water annually for nitrate. 40 C.F.R. § 141.23(d). Respondent failed to monitor the system's water for nitrate during 2010, and, therefore, violated this requirement.

11. Respondent is required to notify the public of certain violations of the drinking water regulations. 40 C.F.R. §§ 141.201 *et seq.* Respondent did not notify the public of the violations cited in paragraphs 7 and 9, and, therefore, violated this requirement. Public notice for the 2010 failure to monitor nitrate and the January 2011 violation for failure to collect at least 5 routine samples following a positive sample in the previous month is not yet overdue.

12. Respondent is required to report any coliform MCL violation to EPA no later than the end of the first business day after learning of it. 40 C.F.R. § 141.21(g)(1). Respondent did not notify EPA of the MCL violation cited in paragraph 7, above, and, therefore, violated this requirement.

13. Respondent is required to report any failure to comply with any coliform monitoring requirement to EPA within ten days of discovering the violation. 40 C.F.R. § 141.21(g)(2). Respondent failed to report the violations listed in paragraphs 8 and 9, above, to EPA and, therefore, violated this requirement.

14. Respondent is required to report any failure to comply with any of the drinking water regulations to EPA within 48 hours (except where a different reporting period is specified in the drinking water regulations). 40 C.F.R. § 141.31(b). Respondent failed to report the violations cited in paragraphs 10 and 11, above, to EPA and, therefore, violated this requirement.

### **ORDER**

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

15. Respondent shall comply with the total coliform MCL. 40 C.F.R. § 141.63. If the system's water does not comply with the total coliform MCL, Respondent shall notify EPA of this violation by the end of the business day after discovering the violation, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 141.21(g)(1).

16. If Respondent's total coliform sample results exceed the MCL while this Order is in effect, Respondent shall, within 30 days of learning of this violation, provide EPA with a compliance plan and schedule for the system to come into compliance with the MCL for total coliform as stated in 40 C.F.R. § 141.63(a). The plan shall include proposed system modifications, estimated costs of modifications, and a schedule for completion of the project and compliance with the total coliform MCL. The proposed schedule shall include specific milestone dates and a final compliance date. The final compliance date shall be within 3 months from the date of EPA's approval of the plan and schedule. The proposed plan and schedule must be approved by EPA before construction or modifications may begin.

17. If any routine sample for the system is total coliform positive, Respondent shall collect at least 5 routine samples during the next month in which the system provides water to the public, following the procedures in 40 C.F.R. § 141.21.

18. Respondent shall monitor the system's water quarterly for total coliform bacteria, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 141.21.

19. Within 30 days of receipt of this Order, and annually thereafter, Respondent shall monitor the system's water for nitrate. 40 C.F.R. § 141.23.

20. Respondent shall report analytical results to EPA within the first 10 days following the month in which sample results were received, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 141.31(a).

21. Within 30 days of receiving this Order, Respondent shall notify the public of the violations cited in paragraphs 7 through 10, above, as required by 40 C.F.R. part 141, subpart Q. Thereafter, following any future violation

of the drinking water regulations, Respondent shall comply with the applicable public notice provisions of 40 C.F.R. part 141, subpart Q. Within 10 days of providing public notice, Respondent shall submit a copy of the notice to EPA.

22. Respondent shall report any violation of the total coliform monitoring requirements to EPA within 10 days of discovery, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 141.21(g)(2).

23. Respondent shall report any violation of the drinking water regulations to EPA within 48 hours of the violation occurring or, if another time period for reporting is specified in this Order or the drinking water regulations, within that other time period. 40 C.F.R § 141.31(b).

24. Respondent shall direct all reporting required by this Order to:

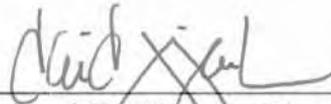
Barbara Burkland  
U.S. EPA, Region 8  
10 West 15th St, Suite 3200  
Helena, MT 59626

**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

25. This Order does 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 EPA to forgo any civil or criminal action.

26. Violation of any part of this Order or the drinking water regulations may subject Respondent 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.

Issued: May 16, 2011.



Michael T. Risner, Director  
David Janik, 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

# TIER 3 TEMPLATES

The pages that follow contain templates for Tier 3 violations and situations. Along with the templates are instructions, including the required method of delivery and instructions for completing individual sections of the notices. These instructions are designed to supplement Chapter 7, so you may see much of the information repeated here.

**Mandatory language on unknown risk for monitoring violations, which must be included exactly as written, is presented in *italics* (141.205(d)).**

You must also include the following italicized language in all notices, where applicable (141.205(d)). Use of this language does *not* relieve you of your obligation to take steps reasonably calculated to notify all persons served:

*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*

## Templates

Monitoring Violations Annual Notice–Template 3-1

## Instructions for Monitoring Violations Annual Notice--Template 3-1

### Template on Reverse

Since most monitoring violations are included in Tier 3, you must provide public notice to persons served within one year after you learn of the violation (141.204(b)). Multiple monitoring violations can be serious, and your primacy agency may have more stringent requirements. Check with your primacy agency to make sure you meet its requirements.

Community systems must use one of the following (141.204(c)):

- Hand or direct delivery
- Mail, as a separate notice or included with the bill

Non-community systems must use one of the following (141.204(c)):

- Posting in conspicuous locations
- Hand delivery
- Mail

In addition, both community and non-community systems must use *another* method reasonably calculated to reach others if they would not be reached by the first method (141.204(c)). Such methods could include newspapers, e-mail, or delivery to community organizations. If you post the notice, it must remain posted until the violation is resolved. If the violation has been resolved, you must post the notice for at least one week (141.204(b)). If you mail, post, or hand deliver, print your notice on letterhead, if available.

The notice on the reverse is appropriate for insertion in an annual notice or the CCR, as long as public notification timing and delivery requirements are met (141.204(d)). You may need to modify the template for a notice for individual monitoring violations. This example presents violations in a table; however, you may write out an explanation for each violation if you wish. For any monitoring violation for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) or other groups, you may list the group name in the table, but you must provide the name of every chemical in the group on the notice, e.g., in a footnote.

You may need to modify the notice if you had any monitoring violations for which monitoring later showed a maximum contaminant level or other violation. In such cases, you should refer to the public notice you issued at that time.

Include in your notice the standard language for monitoring and testing procedure violations in *italics* (141.205(d)(2)). If you modify the notice, you may not alter this mandatory language.

### Corrective Actions

In your notice, describe corrective actions you took or are taking. Listed below are some steps commonly taken by water systems with monitoring violations. Choose the appropriate language, or develop your own:

- We have since taken the required samples, as described in the last column of the table above. The samples showed we are meeting drinking water standards.
- We have since taken the required samples, as described in the last column of the table above. The sample for [contaminant] exceeded the limit. [Describe corrective action; use information from public notice prepared for violating the limit.]
- We plan to take the required samples soon, as described in the last column of the table above.

**After Issuing the Notice**

**Make sure to send your primacy agency a copy of each type of notice and a certification that you have met all the public notice requirements within ten days after issuing the notice (141.31(d)).**

Please send a copy of your notice and dates posted to:

Barbara Burkland  
U.S. EPA, Region 8  
10 West 15th St, Suite 3200  
Helena, MT 59626

Or, you may fax a copy to: Attn: Kimberly Pardue Welch at 303-312-7518.

**Certification of Public Notification**

I \_\_\_\_\_ certify that the attached public notification was issued from  
(PWS Operator / Responsible Party)

\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date) (Date)

The attached notice was issued by \_\_\_\_\_  
(Method of delivery)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**  
**Monitoring Requirements Not Met for Horseshoe Bar**

Our water system violated several drinking water standards over the past several years. Even though these were not emergencies, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct these situations.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. We failed to monitor for total coliform during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters of 2009 and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.

**What should I do?**

**There is nothing you need to do at this time.**

The table below lists the contaminant(s) we did not properly test for during the previous years, how often we are supposed to sample for [this contaminant/these contaminants] and how many samples we are supposed to take, how many samples we took, when samples should have been taken, and the date on which follow-up samples were (or will be) taken.

<b>Contaminant</b>	<b>Required sampling frequency</b>	<b>When all samples should have been taken</b>	<b>When samples were or will be taken</b>
Failure to take 5 routine total coliform samples in the month following a total coliform positive sample	-----	5 samples in January 2011 following total coliform samples in the preceding months.	
Total coliform	1 sample every quarter	2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> quarters of 2009	March and December 2010
Nitrate	1 sample annually	2010	

**What happened? What is being done?**

For more information, please contact [name and number of contact person]  
 \_\_\_\_\_ or [Address] \_\_\_\_\_

*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*

This notice is being sent to you by **Horseshoe Bar**  
 State Water System ID#: **083090056**

Date distributed or dates posted: \_\_\_\_\_

## Instructions for Resolved Total Coliform Notice –(Tier 2)

### Template on Reverse

Since exceeding the total coliform bacteria maximum contaminant level is a Tier 2 violation, you must provide public notice to persons served as soon as practical but within 30 days after you learn of the violation (141.203(b)). Check with the Division of Drinking Water to make sure you meet all the public notification requirements.

Community systems must use one of the following methods (141.203(c)):

- Hand or direct delivery
- Mail, as a separate notice or included with the bill

Non-community systems must use one of the following methods (141.203(c)):

- Posting in conspicuous locations for at least 7 days
- Hand delivery
- Mail

In addition, both community and non-community systems must use *another* method reasonably calculated to reach others if they would not be reached by the first method (141.203(c)). Such methods could include newspapers, e-mail, or delivery to community organizations. If you mail, post, or hand deliver, print your notice on letterhead, if available.

The notice on the reverse is appropriate for hand delivery or mail. However, you may wish to modify it before using it for posting. If you do, you must still include all the required elements and leave the health effects language in italics unchanged. This language is mandatory (141.205(d)).

### Description of the Violation

Make sure that the notice is clear about the fact that the coliform problem has been resolved, and there is no current cause for concern. The description of the violation and the MCL vary depending on the number of samples you take. The following table should help you complete the second paragraph of the template.

<u>If You Take Less Than 40 Samples a Month</u>	<u>If You Take More Than 40 Samples a Month</u>
State the number of samples testing positive for coliform. The standard is that no more than one sample per month may be positive.	State the percentage of samples testing positive for coliform. The standard is that no more than five percent of samples may test positive each month.

### Corrective Action

In your notice, describe corrective actions you have taken. Listed below are some steps commonly taken by water systems with total coliform violations. Use one or more of the following actions, if appropriate, or develop your own:

- We have increased sampling for coliform bacteria to catch the problem early if it recurs.
- The well and/or distribution system has been disinfected and additional samples do not show presence of coliform bacteria.

### After Issuing the Notice

Make sure to send a copy of each type of notice along with a certification that you have met all the public notice requirements to EPA and your Primacy Agency within ten days after issuing the notice (141.31(d)).

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Tests Showed Coliform Bacteria in the Horseshoe Bar public water system

Our water system violated a drinking water standard in December 2010. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. Horseshoe Bar has exceeded the maximum contaminant level for total coliform bacteria. This violation is listed below with the number of samples taken and the number of samples which tested positive.

<u>Violation Date</u>	<u>Number of samples taken</u>	<u>Number of positive samples</u>
December 2010	5	2

The standard is that no more than 1 sample per month may do so.

## What should I do?

- **You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions.** However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1 (800) 426-4791.

## What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. *Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.*

Usually, coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the system's treatment or distribution system (pipes). Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or *E. coli*, are present.

## What happened? What was done?

[Describe corrective action here.]

For more information, please contact \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_ or [mailing address].

*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*

This notice is being sent to you by Horseshoe Bar

State Water System ID#: 083090056

Date distributed: \_\_\_\_\_