

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8

FILED

Aug 19, 2024

4:03 pm

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

IN THE MATTER OF:)

) Docket No. SDWA-08-2024-0038

Corporation of the Presiding Bishop of)
the Church of Jesus Christ of)
Latter Day Saints)

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

Respondent.)

)
LDS-Buffalo Ridge Church)
Public Water System)
PWS ID #WY5601682)

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. The Corporation of the Presiding Bishop of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Respondent) is a Utah corporation that owns and operates the LDS-Buffalo Ridge Church Public Water System (System), which provides piped water to the public in Laramie County, Wyoming, for human consumption.
3. The System is supplied by a groundwater source accessed via one well. The water is treated by a sand separator on the principle of centrifugal force removing over 98% of all 200 mesh-sized particles and greater.
4. The System has approximately one service connection and regularly serves an average of approximately 530 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

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notifications of the specific monitoring requirements that apply to the System.

VIOLATIONS

7. 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 March, April, and May 2024 and therefore, violated this requirement.
8. Respondent is required to monitor quarterly for nitrate if any sample of the System's water has a nitrate concentration of at least five milligrams per liter (mg/L). 40 C.F.R. §§ 141.23(d)(2). After the System's water was analyzed for nitrate at 5.09 mg/L in the first quarter of 2020, the Respondent was placed on quarterly monitoring. Respondent failed to monitor the System's water for nitrate during the third and fourth quarter 2023 and the first quarter 2024 and, therefore, violated this requirement. Respondent also failed to monitor for nitrate during the second and third quarter of 2021, the first quarter of 2022, and the first quarter 2023 which were all returned back to compliance.
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 violations identified in paragraph 7 and 8, above, are classified as violations requiring Tier 3 public notice within 1 year, according to 40 C.F.R. § 141.204. Respondent failed to notify the public of, and failed to submit a copy of the public notices and certifications to the EPA for, the violations in paragraph 8 that occurred during the second and third quarter of 2021, the first quarter of 2022, and the first quarter 2023. Respondent therefore violated these requirements. (Note: The public notice deadline for the remaining violations cited in paragraphs 7 and 8 has not yet passed.)
10. Respondent is required to report any failure to comply with Part 141 to the EPA within 48 hours (except where Part 141 specifies a different time period). 40 C.F.R. § 141.31(b). Respondent failed to report the violations cited in paragraph 8 above, to the EPA and therefore, violated this requirement.

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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 7, 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. 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).
14. Within 30 calendar days after receipt of this Order and as required by Part 141 thereafter, Respondent shall monitor the System's water quarterly for nitrate, in accordance with 40 C.F.R. §§ 141.23(a) and (d). 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. For any future violation of Part 141 for which this Order does not specify a reporting period, Respondent must report the violation to the EPA within 48 hours of the violation occurring, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 141.31(b). However, if Part 141 specifies a different time period for reporting the particular violation, Respondent must report the violation to the EPA within that different period.
16. Within 30 calendar days after receipt of this Order, Respondent shall notify the public of the nitrate violations that occurred during the second and third quarter of 2021, the first quarter of 2022, and the first quarter 2023 as cited in paragraph 8, above. The remaining violations identified in paragraphs 7 and 8, above, are classified as violations requiring Tier 3 public notice within 1 year of learning of the

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violation, according to 40 C.F.R. § 141.204. 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>.

17. If the population served by the System at least 60 days of the year falls below 25 individuals, Respondent must notify the EPA in writing within 10 calendar days by submitting a completed basic information form. The form is available at:

<https://www.epa.gov/region8-waterops/reporting-forms-drinking-water-systems-wyoming-and-tribal-lands-epa-region-8#new>.

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 bell.marlon@epa.gov

GENERAL PROVISIONS

20. This Order is binding on Respondent, Respondent's 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 \$69,733 (as adjusted for inflation) per day of violation, a court

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injunction ordering compliance, or both. 42 U.S.C. § 300g-3; 40 C.F.R. part 19; 88 Fed. Reg. at 89309 (December 27, 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 15, 2024.

Tiffany Cantor, Manager
Water Enforcement Branch
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division