



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 8

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

SEP 20 2018

2018 SEP 20 PM 3:05  
FILED  
EPA REGION VIII  
HEARING CLERK

Ref: 8ENF-W-SDW

CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Gerald Chouinard, Superintendent  
Lame Deer Public Schools  
P.O. Box 96  
Lame Deer, Montana 59043

Re: Administrative Order issued to Lame Deer High School Public Water System,  
PWS ID # 083090067, Docket No. **SDWA-08-2018-0035**

Dear Mr. Chouinard:

Enclosed is an Administrative Order (Order) issued by the United States Environmental Protection Agency 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 Lame Deer Public Schools (District), as owner and/or operator of the Lame Deer High School Public Water System (System), has violated the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (Drinking Water Regulations) at 40 C.F.R. part 141.

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

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

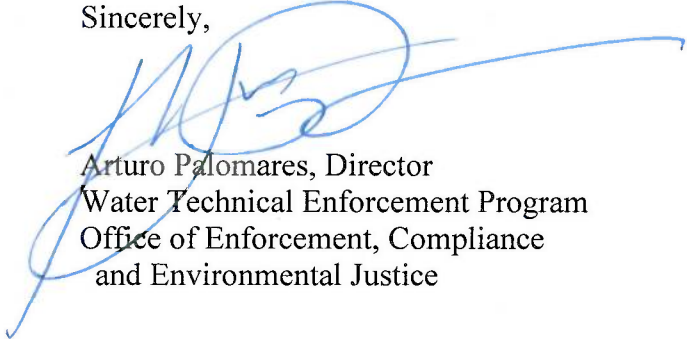
The Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act (SBREFA) may apply to this situation. Enclosed is a small business information sheet, outlining compliance assistance resources available to small businesses and small governments, in case these are relevant. SBREFA does not eliminate the responsibility to comply with the Order or the Drinking Water Regulations.

If you have any questions or to request an informal conference with the EPA, please contact Jill Minter at the above address (with the mailcode 8ENF-W-SDW), via email at [minter.jill@epa.gov](mailto:minter.jill@epa.gov), or by phone at (800) 227-8917, extension 6084, or (303) 312-6084. Any

questions from the District's 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, Director  
Water Technical Enforcement Program  
Office of Enforcement, Compliance  
and Environmental Justice

Enclosures

1. Administrative Order
2. Public notice templates
3. SBREFA information sheet

cc: Melissa Haniewicz, EPA Regional Hearing Clerk  
Mr. Gabe Strange Owl, Operator, Lame Deer High School Water System,  
([gabe.strangeowl@lamedeer.k12.mt.us](mailto:gabe.strangeowl@lamedeer.k12.mt.us))  
Mr. Conrad Fisher, Acting President, Northern Cheyenne Tribe  
Ms. Charlene Alden, Environmental Director, Northern Cheyenne Tribe,  
([charlene.alden@cheyennation.com](mailto:charlene.alden@cheyennation.com))

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 8

2018 SEP 20 PM 3: 05

IN THE MATTER OF: \_\_\_\_\_ )  
 )  
Lame Deer Public Schools, )  
(PWS ID# 083090067) )  
 )  
Respondent. \_\_\_\_\_ )

Docket No. **SDWA-08-2018-0035**

**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. Lame Deer Public Schools (Respondent) is a municipality that owns and/or operates the Lame Deer High School Public Water System (System), which provides piped water to the public on the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation in Rosebud County, Montana, for human consumption.
3. The System is supplied by a groundwater source accessed via a well. The water is chlorinated, treated by reverse osmosis, and goes through a calcium filter to prevent corrosion in piping, before entering a 50,000-gallon storage tank and the distribution system.
4. The System has one service connection and/or regularly serves an average of approximately 260 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. Respondent is 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).
6. The Drinking Water Regulations include 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 monitor the System’s water annually for nitrate at every entry point to the distribution system which is representative of each well after treatment. 40 C.F.R. § 141.23(a) and (d). Respondent failed to monitor the System’s water for nitrate during 2017 and therefore violated this requirement. Respondent did monitor for nitrate on July 10, 2018.
8. Respondent was required to collect a set of total trihalomethanes (TTHM) and haloacetic acid (HAA5) samples triennially and to submit monitoring results to the EPA within 10 days

after the end of each monitoring period. 40 C.F.R. §§ 141.623(a)(b) and 141.629. Respondent collected a set of TTHM and HAA5 samples in 2014, and the next sampling was required during September in 2017. Respondent failed to monitor the System's water for TTHM and HAA5 in September 2017, and therefore violated this requirement. Due to Respondent's failure to monitor triennially in 2017, reduced triennial monitoring has been revoked and Respondent must now monitor annually for TTHM and HAA5. 40 C.F.R. § 141.621.

9. Respondent was required to monitor the System's water triennially for lead and copper. 40 C.F.R. § 141.86(d). Respondent monitored the System's water for lead and copper on August 14, 2014, and the next sampling was required between June 1, 2017, and September 30, 2017. Respondent failed to monitor the System's water for lead and copper during that period and therefore violated this requirement. Due to Respondent's failure to monitor triennially in 2017, reduced triennial monitoring was revoked and Respondent must now monitor for lead and copper annually. Respondent did monitor for lead and copper on July 10, 2018.

10. Respondent is required to complete corrective action of a significant deficiency in accordance with an EPA approved corrective action schedule or within 120 days of receiving written notification from EPA of a significant deficiency. 40 C.F.R. § 141.404(a). Respondent is required to notify the EPA within 30 days of completion of a significant deficiency corrective action. 40 C.F.R. § 141.405(a)(2). Respondent received a letter from the EPA on February 22, 2016, which detailed a significant deficiency to be corrected within 6 months. EPA granted an extension for corrective action by May 31, 2017. Respondent corrected the significant deficiency and notified the EPA of the corrective action on June 27, 2018. Respondent was late in completing the corrective action and therefore violated this requirement.

11. Respondent is required to notify the public of certain violations of the Drinking Water Regulations and, within 10 days after completing public notice, provide a copy of the public notice to the EPA. 40 C.F.R. §§ 141.201-141.211. Respondent failed to notify the public of the violation cited in paragraph 10, above and/or failed to submit a copy to the EPA, and therefore violated this requirement. Public notices for the violations cited in paragraphs 7, 8 and 9 are not yet overdue.

12. Respondent is 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). Respondent failed to report the violations cited in paragraphs 7, 8, 9 and 10, above, to the 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):

13. Respondent shall monitor the System's water for nitrate as required by the Drinking Water Regulations, in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 141.23(a) and (d). The next nitrate sample is due in 2019.
14. During September 2018, and thereafter as directed by the EPA, Respondent shall monitor the System's water for TTHM and HAA5 in accordance with the System's TTHM and HAA5 monitoring plan, as required by 40 C.F.R. §§ 141.621-623. Respondent shall submit the sampling results to the EPA within 10 days following the end of the monitoring period, as specified by 40 C.F.R. § 141.629.
15. Respondent shall monitor the System's water for lead and copper as directed by the EPA, in accordance with the System's tap sample site plan, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 141.86(a)-(d). Within 30 days of receiving monitoring results, Respondent shall deliver a consumer notice of individual tap monitoring results to the persons served at each sampled site, in accordance with 40 CFR 141.85(d). Within 90 days following the end of each monitoring period, Respondent shall submit to the EPA a sample copy of the consumer notification along with a certification that the notification has been distributed, in accordance with 40 CFR 141.90(f)(3).
16. Respondent shall complete corrective action of any future significant deficiencies and notification of their completion as required by 40 C.F.R. §§ 141.403(a) and 141.405(a)(2).
17. For any future violation of the Drinking Water Regulations for which this Order does not specify a reporting period, Respondent shall 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 the Drinking Water Regulations specify a different time period for reporting the particular violation, Respondent shall report the violation to the EPA within that different period.
18. Within 30 days after receipt of this Order, Respondent shall notify the public of the violation cited in paragraphs 7, 8, 9, and 10, above. Templates and instructions are available at: <https://www.epa.gov/region8-waterops/reporting-forms-and-instructions-reporting-forms%23new#pn>. Thereafter, following any future violation of the Drinking Water Regulations, Respondent shall comply with any applicable public notice provisions of 40 C.F.R. part 141, subpart Q. Within 10 days after providing public notice, Respondent shall submit a copy of the notice to the EPA.
19. If Respondent contracts with or hires any other person or entity to operate the System, Respondent shall, within ten days, provide a copy of this Order to the employee or contractor and notify the EPA in writing of the change. In any event, Respondent shall remain obligated to comply with this Order.

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

Email: [R8DWU@epa.gov](mailto:R8DWU@epa.gov), and  
[minter.jill@epa.gov](mailto:minter.jill@epa.gov)

**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

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

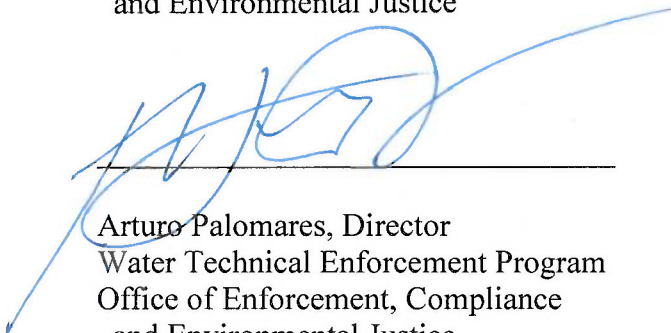
22. Violation of any part of this Order or the Drinking Water Regulations may subject Respondent to a civil penalty of up to \$55,907 (as adjusted for inflation) per day of violation and/or a court injunction ordering compliance. 42 U.S.C. § 300g-3; 40 C.F.R. part 19; 83 Fed. Reg. at 1193 (January 10, 2018).

23. Respondent 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).

Issued: September 20, 2019.



Amy Swanson, Supervisory Attorney  
Regulatory Enforcement Unit  
Legal Enforcement Program  
Office of Enforcement, Compliance  
and Environmental Justice



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

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

### Monitoring Requirements Not Met for Lame Deer High School System

Our water system violated drinking water requirements over the past year. Even though these were not emergencies, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing (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. During 2017 we did not monitor or test for nitrate, total trihalomethanes (TTHM) and haloacetic acid (HAA5), and lead and copper and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time.\**

#### What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time.

The table below lists the contaminants we did not properly test for during the last year, how often we are supposed to sample for these contaminants, 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.

Contaminant	Required sampling frequency	Number of samples taken	When samples should have been taken	When samples were taken
Nitrate	1 sample annually	0	Between January 1 and December 30, 2017	July 10, 2018
TTHM and HAA5	1 set of TTHM and HAA5 samples triennially, now annually	0	September 2017	To be taken September 2018
Lead and copper	5 samples triennially, now annually	0	Between June 1 and September 30, 2017	July 10, 2018

#### What is being done?

[Describe corrective action.]

For more information, please contact [name of contact] at [phone number] 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 the Lame Deer High School System, PWS ID#: 083090067.

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

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

## Template on Reverse

If you are required to provide Tier 3 notification, you must provide public notice to persons served within one year after you learn of the violation [40 CFR 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 [40 CFR 141.204(c)]:

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

Noncommunity systems must use one of the following [40 CFR 141.204(c)]:

- Posting in conspicuous locations
- Hand delivery
- Mail

In addition, both community and noncommunity systems must use another method reasonably calculated to reach others if they would not be reached by the first method [40 CFR 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 already been resolved, you must post the notice for at least seven days [40 CFR 141.204(b)]. If you mail, post, or hand deliver, print your notice on your system's letterhead, if available.

The notice on the reverse is appropriate for insertion in an annual notice or the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), as long as public notification timing and delivery requirements are met [40 CFR 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. If you do modify the notice, you must still include all required PN elements from 40 CFR 141.205(a) and leave the mandatory language unchanged (see below).

### **Mandatory Language**

Mandatory language for monitoring and testing procedure violations [40 CFR 141.205(d)] must be included as written (with blanks filled in) and is presented in this notice in italics and with an asterisk on either end.

You must also include standard language to encourage the distribution of the public notice to all persons served, where applicable [40 CFR 141.205(d)]. This language is also presented in this notice in italics and with an asterisk on either end.

### **Corrective Action**

In your notice, describe corrective actions you took, or are taking. Listed below are some steps commonly taken by water systems with monitoring violations. You can use the following language, if appropriate, 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 [40 CFR 141.31(d)].



# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

## Lame Deer High School Water System Failed to Correct a Significant Deficiency within the Required Time Frame.

Our water system recently violated a drinking water requirement. 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.

A routine inspection conducted on September 2, 2015, and reported on February 22, 2016, by the U.S. EPA Region 8, found a significant deficiency in our water system: an unprotected, high hazard cross-connection present on the irrigation well, WL-02.

As required by Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Ground Water Rule, we were required to take action to correct this deficiency by May 31, 2017. We failed to take this action by the deadline established by the U.S. EPA, however, we did correct this deficiency by June 27, 2018.

### What should I do?

- There is nothing you need to do. You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water. 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 within 24 hours.

*\*Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.\**

These symptoms, however, are not caused only by organisms in drinking water, but also by other factors. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.

### What is being done?

The problem was resolved on June 27, 2018.

For more information, please contact [name of contact] at [phone number] 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 Lame Deer High School Water System. PWS ID#: 083090067.

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

# Instructions for GWR Failure to Take Corrective Action Within Required Time Frame Notice – Template 2-21

## Template on Reverse

A system's failure to take corrective action within the required timeframe or be in compliance with a state-approved corrective action plan and schedule for a fecal indicator-positive ground water source sample or significant deficiency under the Ground Water Rule is a treatment technique violation and requires Tier 2 notification. You must provide public notice to persons served as soon as practical but within 30 days after you learn of the violation [40 CFR 141.203(b)]. You must issue a repeat notice every three months for as long as the violation persists. Your primacy agency may have more stringent requirements for treatment technique violations. Check with your agency to make sure you meet all requirements.

If this notice is for failing to address a fecal indicator-positive source sample, a Tier 1 notice for detecting a fecal indicator in the source water should have already been issued. Consider providing the history of the situation in this notice (i.e., what events lead to requiring corrective action) to avoid confusing the public when this second notice is issued.

Community systems must use one of the following methods [40 CFR 141.203(c)]:

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

Noncommunity systems must use one of the following methods [40 CFR 141.203(c)]:

- Posting in conspicuous locations
- Hand delivery
- Mail

In addition both community and noncommunity systems must use *another* method reasonably calculated to reach others if they would not be reached by the first method [40 CFR 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 your system's letterhead if available.

The notice on the reverse is appropriate for mailing, posting, or hand delivery. If you modify this notice, you must still include all required PN elements from 40 CFR 141.205(a) and leave the mandatory language unchanged (see below).

### Mandatory Language

Mandatory language on health effects (from Appendix B to Subpart Q) must be included as written (with blanks filled in) and is presented in this notice in italics and with an asterisk on either end.

You must also include standard language to encourage the distribution of the public notice to all persons served, where applicable [40 CFR 141.205(d)]. This language is also presented in this notice in italics and with an asterisk on either end.

### Corrective Action

In your notice, describe corrective actions you are taking. Listed below are some steps commonly taken by water systems with Ground Water Rule treatment technique violations. Depending on the corrective action you are taking, you can use one or more of the following statements, if appropriate, or develop your own text:

- Although we did not meet our deadline, we are now in consultation with the state to develop a corrective action plan.
- The [source of contamination/significant deficiency] has been identified and addressed.
- We have implemented a short term plan to address the immediate issue while we pursue the long-term solution.

### Repeat Notices

For repeat notices, you should state how long the violation has been ongoing and remind consumers of when you sent out any previous notices. If you are making progress with correcting the significant deficiency or addressing the fecal indicator-positive source sample, describe it. Alternatively, if funding or other issues are delaying corrective action, let consumers know.

### 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 public notification requirements within ten days after issuing the notice [40 CFR 141.31(d)].

## 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.

### Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU)

[www.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-office-small-and-disadvantaged-business-utilization-osdbu](http://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-office-small-and-disadvantaged-business-utilization-osdbu)

EPA's OSDBU advocates and advances business, regulatory, and environmental compliance concerns of small and socio-economically disadvantaged businesses.

### EPA's Asbestos Small Business Ombudsman (ASBO)

[www.epa.gov/resources-small-businesses/asbestos-small-business-ombudsman](http://www.epa.gov/resources-small-businesses/asbestos-small-business-ombudsman) or 1-800-368-5888

The EPA ASBO serves as a conduit for small businesses to access EPA and facilitates communications between the small business community and the Agency.

### Small Business Environmental Assistance Program

<https://nationalsbeap.org>

This program provides a "one-stop shop" for small businesses and assistance providers seeking information on a wide range of environmental topics and state-specific environmental compliance assistance resources.

### EPA's Compliance Assistance Homepage

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

This page is a gateway to industry and statute-specific environmental resources, from extensive web-based information to hotlines and compliance assistance specialists.

### Compliance Assistance Centers

[www.complianceassistance.net](http://www.complianceassistance.net)

EPA sponsored 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

[www.ccar-greenlink.org](http://www.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)

#### 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)

#### Surface Finishing

<http://www.sterc.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 and Clearinghouses

[www.epa.gov/home/epa-hotlines](http://www.epa.gov/home/epa-hotlines)

EPA sponsors many free hotlines and clearinghouses that provide convenient assistance regarding environmental requirements. Examples include:

### Clean Air Technology Center (CATC) Info-line

[www.epa.gov/catc](http://www.epa.gov/catc) or 1-919-541-0800

### Superfund, TRI, EPCRA, RMP, and Oil Information Center

1-800-424-9346

### EPA Imported Vehicles and Engines Public Helpline

[www.epa.gov/otaq/imports](http://www.epa.gov/otaq/imports) or 1-734-214-4100

### 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 - <http://nrc.uscg.mil> or 1-800-424-8802

### Pollution Prevention Information Clearinghouse (PPIC) -

[www.epa.gov/p2/pollution-prevention-resources#ppic](http://www.epa.gov/p2/pollution-prevention-resources#ppic) or 1-202-566-0799

### Safe Drinking Water Hotline -

[www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/safe-drinking-water-hotline](http://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/safe-drinking-water-hotline) or 1-800-426-4791

### Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Hotline

[tsca-hotline@epa.gov](mailto:tsca-hotline@epa.gov) or 1-202-554-1404

### Small Entity Compliance Guides

<https://www.epa.gov/reg-flex/small-entity-compliance-guides>

EPA publishes a Small Entity Compliance Guide (SECG) for every rule for which the Agency has prepared a final regulatory flexibility analysis, in accordance with Section 604 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA).

### Regional Small Business Liaisons

[www.epa.gov/resources-small-businesses/epa-regional-office-small-business-liaisons](http://www.epa.gov/resources-small-businesses/epa-regional-office-small-business-liaisons)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regional Small Business Liaison (RSBL) is the primary regional contact and often the expert on small business assistance, advocacy, and outreach. The RSBL is the regional voice for the EPA Asbestos and Small Business Ombudsman (ASBO).

### State Resource Locators

[www.envcap.org/statetools](http://www.envcap.org/statetools)

The Locators provide state-specific contacts, regulations and resources covering the major environmental laws.

### State Small Business Environmental Assistance Programs (SBEAPs)

<https://nationalsbeap.org/states/list>

State SBEAPs help small businesses and assistance providers understand environmental requirements and sustainable business practices through workshops, trainings and site visits.

### EPA's Tribal Portal

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

The Portal helps users locate tribal-related information within EPA and other federal agencies.

### EPA Compliance Incentives

EPA provides incentives for environmental compliance. By participating in compliance assistance programs or voluntarily disclosing and promptly correcting violations before an enforcement action has been initiated, businesses may be eligible for penalty waivers or reductions. EPA has two such policies that may apply to small businesses:

#### EPA's Small Business Compliance Policy

[www.epa.gov/enforcement/small-businesses-and-enforcement](http://www.epa.gov/enforcement/small-businesses-and-enforcement)

#### EPA's Audit Policy

[www.epa.gov/compliance/epas-audit-policy](http://www.epa.gov/compliance/epas-audit-policy)

### Commenting on Federal Enforcement Actions and Compliance Activities

The Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (SBREFA) established a SBREFA Ombudsman and 10 Regional Fairness Boards to receive comments from small businesses about federal agency enforcement actions. If you believe that you fall within the Small Business Administration's definition of a small business (based on your North American Industry Classification System designation, number of employees or annual receipts, as defined at 13 C.F.R. 121.201; in most cases, this means a business with 500 or fewer employees), and wish to comment on federal enforcement and compliance activities, call the SBREFA Ombudsman's toll-free number at 1-888-REG-FAIR (1-888-734-3247).

Every small business that is the subject of an enforcement or compliance action is entitled to comment on the Agency's actions without fear of retaliation. EPA employees are prohibited from using enforcement or any other means of retaliation against any member of the regulated community in response to comments made under SBREFA.

### Your Duty to Comply

If you receive compliance assistance or submit a comment to the SBREFA Ombudsman or Regional Fairness Boards, you still have the duty to comply with the law, including providing timely responses to EPA information requests, administrative or civil complaints, other enforcement actions or communications. The assistance information and comment processes do not give you any new rights or defenses in any enforcement action. These processes also do not affect EPA's obligation to protect public health or the environment under any of the environmental statutes it enforces, including the right to take emergency remedial or emergency response actions when appropriate. Those decisions will be based on the facts in each situation. The SBREFA Ombudsman and Fairness Boards do not participate in resolving EPA's enforcement actions. Also, remember that to preserve your rights, you need to comply with all rules governing the enforcement process.

***EPA is disseminating this information to you without making a determination that your business or organization is a small business as defined by Section 222 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act or related provisions.***