



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 8

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

APR 25 2017

2017 APR 25 PM 1:28

FILED  
EPA REGION VIII  
HEARING CLERK

Ref: 8ENF-W-SDW

CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Bernard C. Homan, owner  
Ox Yoke Ranch  
1607 South Greeley Highway  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82700

Re: Administrative Order regarding Ox Yoke Ranch Public Water System, PWS ID #5601030,  
Docket No. **SDWA-08-2017-0014**

Dear Mr. Homan:

Enclosed is an Administrative Order (Order) issued by the 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 owner and/or operator of the Ox Yoke Ranch 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 (for example, monitoring that may have been done but not submitted, updates to the numbers of connections and/or individuals served). If the EPA does not hear from you, the EPA will assume the information in the Order 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.

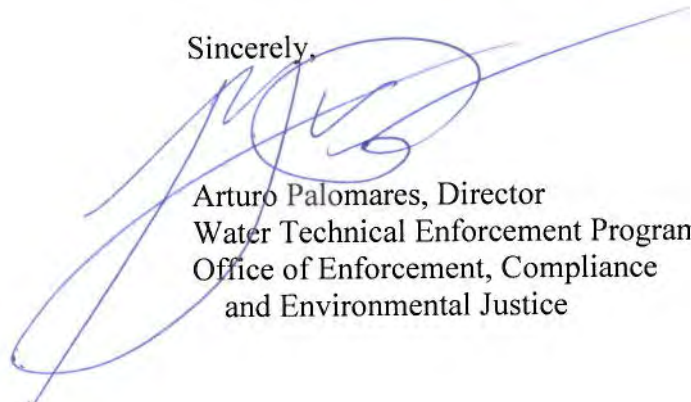
As a reminder, you must correct the significant deficiencies identified in the May 6, 2015, sanitary survey report no later than July 31, 2017. Once corrected, you must provide documentation of completion of the following deficiencies to the EPA: replace sanitary seal on well cap, increase well casing height from 4" to 12" above the floor, completely seal holes on top of the underground storage tank, and complete an emergency response plan. Failure to timely complete these tasks may result in a second Order being issued.



To submit information or to request an informal conference with the EPA, please contact Kathelene Brainich 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 via email at [bearley.mia@epa.gov](mailto:bearley.mia@epa.gov), by phone at (800) 227-8917, extension 6554, or (303) 312-6554, or at the above address (with the mailcode 8ENF-L),

We urge your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



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

Enclosures

cc: WY DEQ/DOH (via email)  
Melissa Haniewicz, 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/region8

APR 25 2017

2017 APR 25 PM 1:28

FILED  
EPA REGION VIII  
HEARING CLERK

Ref: 8ENF-W-SDW

CERTIFIED MAIL LETTER  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Albany County Commissioners  
c/o Tim Chesnut, Chair  
525 Grand Avenue  
Laramie, Wyoming 82070

Re: Notice of Safe Drinking Water Act Enforcement Action Regarding Ox Yoke Ranch  
Public Water System, PWS ID #5601030 **Docket No.:** SDWA-08-2017-0014

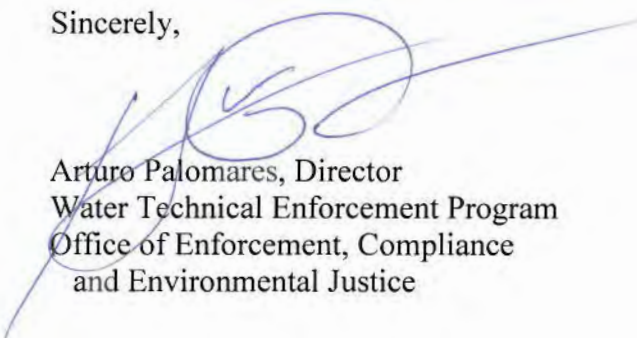
Dear Commissioners:

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

An Administrative Order (Order) is being issued to Bernard Homan, as owner and/or operator of the Ox Yoke Ranch Public Water System, located in Albany County, directing him to comply with the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations. The violations alleged in the Order are failure to monitor for total coliform bacteria and failure to report the violations to the EPA.

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,



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

Enclosure



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 8

2017 APR 25 PM 1:28

\_\_\_\_\_  
IN THE MATTER OF: )  
 )  
Bernard C. Homan, owner )  
Ox Yoke Ranch, )  
 )  
Respondent. )

FILED  
EPA REGION VIII  
HEARING CLERK

Docket No. SDWA-08-2017-0014

**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 (the Act), 42 U.S.C. § 300g-3(g), as properly delegated to the undersigned officials.
2. Bernard C. Homan (Respondent) is an individual that owns and/or operates the Ox Yoke Ranch Public Water System (the System), which provides piped water to the public in Albany County, Wyoming, for human consumption.
3. The System is supplied by a groundwater source accessed via one well. The water is not treated. The System is seasonal June through September.
4. The System has approximately 26 service connections and regularly serves an average of approximately 60 individuals daily at least 60 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. The System is also a "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).

**VIOLATIONS**

6. 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 June, July and August 2016 and, therefore, violated this requirement.
7. Respondent is required to report any violation of coliform monitoring requirements to the EPA within 10 days after discovering the violation. 40 C.F.R. § 141.861(a)(4). Respondent failed to report the violations listed in paragraph 6, 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):





8. Respondent shall monitor the System's water monthly for total coliform bacteria from June through September each year. 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 total coliform analytical results to the EPA within the first 10 days following the month in which Respondent receives sample results, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 141.31(a). Respondent shall report any violation of coliform monitoring requirements to the EPA within 10 days after discovering the violation, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 141.861(a)(4).

9. If the population or number of connections served by the System at least 60 days of the year falls below 25 individuals and 15 connections, Respondent shall notify the EPA in writing within 10 days by completing the basic information form available at:  
<https://www.epa.gov/region8-waterops/reporting-forms-and-instructions-reporting-forms#new>

10. This Order shall be binding on Respondent, his assigns and heirs, and any person (e.g., employee, contractor or other agent) acting in concert with Respondent.

11. 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 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, Respondent 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. Respondent shall remain obligated to comply with this Order even if Respondent leases the System to another person or entity or hires another person or entity to operate the System.

12. Respondent shall send all reporting and notifications required by this Order in writing to:

U.S. EPA Region 8 (8WP-SD)  
1595 Wynkoop Street,  
Denver, CO 80202-1129  
Email: R8DWU@epa.gov  
Fax: (877) 876-9101

#### **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

13. 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.

14. Violation of any part of this Order or the Drinking Water Regulations may subject Respondent to a civil penalty of up to \$54,789 (as adjusted for inflation) per day of violation. 42 U.S.C. § 300g-3; 40 C.F.R. part 19; 82 Fed. Reg. 3633 (January 12, 2017).



Bernard C. Homan  
Ox Yoke Ranch  
Page 3 of 3

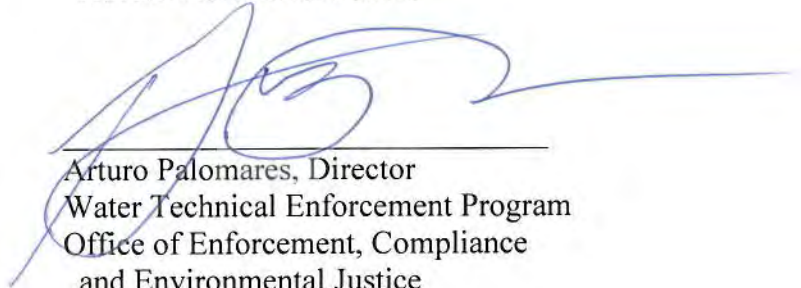
15. Respondent may seek federal judicial review of this Order pursuant to section 1448(a) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300j-7(a).

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

Issued: April 25th, 2017.



James H. Eppers, Supervisory Attorney  
Regulatory Enforcement Unit  
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**  
[ecar-greenlink.org/](http://ecar-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.nmfrc.org](http://www.nmfrc.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

### Stratospheric Ozone Protection Hotline

[www.epa.gov/ozone/comments.htm](http://www.epa.gov/ozone/comments.htm) or 1-800-296-1996

### Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Hotline

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

### Small Entity Compliance Guides

<http://www.epa.gov/sbrefa/compliance-guides.html>

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

<http://www.epa.gov/sbo/rsbl.htm>

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)

[www.epa.gov/sbo/507program.htm](http://www.epa.gov/sbo/507program.htm)

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 provides access to information on environmental issues, laws, and resources related to federally recognized tribes.

### 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

[www2.epa.gov/enforcement/small-businesses-and-enforcement](http://www2.epa.gov/enforcement/small-businesses-and-enforcement)

This Policy offers small businesses special incentives to come into compliance voluntarily.

### EPA's Audit Policy

[www2.epa.gov/compliance/epas-audit-policy](http://www2.epa.gov/compliance/epas-audit-policy)

The Policy provides incentives to all businesses that voluntarily discover, promptly disclose and expeditiously correct their noncompliance.

### 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.*