

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8**



IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
Dale Stietz,) Docket No. SDWA-08-2025-0008
)
Respondent.) **ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**
)
)
Buckhorn Bar and Grill)
Public Water System)
PWS ID #WY5600600)

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. Dale Stietz (Respondent) is an individual who owns and operates the Buckhorn Bar and Grill Public Water System (System), which provides piped water to the public in Weston County, Wyoming, for human consumption.
3. The System is supplied by a groundwater source accessed via one well. The water is treated by filtration.
4. The System has approximately four service connections and/or regularly serves four year-round residents and an average of approximately 100 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 notifications of the specific monitoring requirements that apply to the System.

VIOLATIONS

7. Respondent is required to complete corrective actions of significant deficiencies or comply with an EPA-approved corrective action plan and schedule within 120 calendar days (or earlier if instructed by the EPA) of receiving written notification from the EPA of a significant deficiency. 40 C.F.R. § 141.404(a). Respondent is required to notify the EPA within 30 calendar days of completion of significant deficiency corrective actions. 40 C.F.R. § 141.405(a)(2). The EPA sent the Respondent a sanitary survey report dated July 26, 2023, which detailed significant deficiencies. The EPA approved Respondent's corrective action schedule to complete corrective actions by May 8, 2024. The EPA's records reflect that the Respondent failed to complete all corrective actions by May 8, 2024, and failed to notify the EPA of corrective action completion by June 8, 2024, and therefore violated these requirements.
8. 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 November 2020, February 2021, July 2022, February 2023, December 2023, June 2024, October 2024 and November 2024 and therefore violated this requirement. (Note: Respondent returned each violation to compliance by sampling for total coliform during the subsequent month.)
9. 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 2018 and 2022 and therefore violated this requirement. (Note: Respondent returned these violations to compliance by sampling for nitrate in 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2023.)
10. Respondent is required to notify the public of certain violations of Part 141 and, within 10 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 violation identified in paragraph 7, above, is classified as a Tier 2 violation,

requiring public notice within 30 days, according to 40 C.F.R. § 141.203. The EPA's records reflect that the Respondent failed to notify the public of the violation cited in paragraph 7 and failed to submit copies of the public notices and certifications to the EPA, and therefore violated these requirements.

11. 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 paragraphs 8 and 9, above, are classified as violations requiring Tier 3 public notice within one year, according to 40 C.F.R. § 141.204. The EPA's records reflect that the Respondent failed to notify the public of the violations cited in paragraphs 8 and 9, above, and failed to submit a copy of the public notice and certification to the EPA, and therefore violated these requirements. (Note: The public notice deadlines for the December 2023, June 2024, and October 2024 violations cited in paragraph 8, above, have not yet passed.)
12. 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 paragraphs 7 and 9, above, to the EPA and therefore violated this requirement.
13. 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 violations listed in paragraph 8, 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):

14. Within 30 calendar days of receipt of this Order, Respondent shall consult with the EPA regarding action to correct significant deficiencies and shall submit a proposed schedule and plan to the EPA for completion of all corrective actions specified below. The plan shall include proposed modifications to the System and estimated costs of

modifications. The EPA will review the proposed schedule and any approved schedule (Schedule) shall be incorporated into this Order with each milestone to be an enforceable requirement upon written approval by the EPA. Within 10 calendar days after completing all tasks included in the Schedule, Respondent shall notify the EPA of the project's completion. Respondent shall provide sufficient evidence of the project's completion to the EPA, including photographs of the corrective actions. Thereafter, if the EPA identifies any significant deficiency at the System, Respondent shall complete corrective action for each significant deficiency and provide notification to the EPA within 30 calendar days of completion, as required by 40 C.F.R. §§ 141.403(a) and 141.405(a)(2).

Corrective Actions:

- Well 01-Buckhorn Well: all openings must be sealed and watertight.
 - Unprotected, high hazard cross-connection present. An approved air gap or atmospheric vacuum breaker or greater backflow prevention device must be installed at the tap of the mobile home.
15. 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).
16. As required by Part 141 thereafter, Respondent shall monitor the System's water for nitrate annually, 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).
17. Within 30 calendar days after receipt of this Order, and quarterly thereafter as long as the violations cited in paragraph 7, above, persist, Respondent shall notify the public of these violations. Thereafter, 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>.

18. Within 30 calendar days after receipt of this Order, Respondent shall notify the public of the violations cited in paragraphs 8 and 9, above. Thereafter, 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>.
19. 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.
20. If the population or number of connections 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>.
21. 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.

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

Email: R8DWU@epa.gov, and carballal-broome.christina@epa.gov

GENERAL PROVISIONS

23. This Order is binding on Respondent, successors and, and any person (*e.g.*, employee, contractor, or other agent) acting in concert with Respondent.
24. 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.
25. 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). 42 U.S.C. § 300g-3; 40 C.F.R. part 19; 88 Fed. Reg. at 89309 (December 27, 2023).
26. 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: December 23, 2024.

for Colleen Rathbone, Manager
Water Enforcement Branch
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division