

**Hitchin" Post
P.O. Box 67
Melrose, MT 59743**

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FILED
EPA REGION VIII
HEARINGS CLERK

Tina Artemis, Region Hearing Clerk
U.S. EPA Region 8 (8RC)
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver CO 80202-1129

October 23, 2012

I am in receipt of your letter dated September 25, 2012 and would like to address the issue that is in noncompliance.

On page 8 it discusses "Failure to Provide Public Notice" I have posted notice and copied to the EPA Helena office of my error and provided this office with the public notice papers as ordered in September 2012.

In the past I had mailed all samples by USPS to the state testing lab in Helena. With the rerouting of our outgoing mail, the mail now travels to Great Falls, MT for distribution before heading to the address on the packages. I was unaware of this, and when I mailed my sample I believed I had enough time for the testing to be done. I received a letter from the lab stating that the sample had exceeded the hold time for the sample and could not be tested. I spoke to Sienna and explained my problem. She was very helpful and told me of carrier services provided by the state lab through Hospital labs in both Dillon and Butte. I then sent another sample via carrier. It was past the month end. I posted notice and the sample was satisfactory. I have been sending samples through the carrier at mid month, allowing for any unforeseen circumstances to be corrected before month end.

I would appreciate a reduction in the fine as I believe I had done the correct things to correct the situation. I would appreciate a payment schedule to pay the fine as we are heading in to our slow time of year and money is tight.

Thank you for your consideration.

Debbie Kearns
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Hitchin Post