



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 8**

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

**MAY 21 2014**

Ref: 8ENF-W

CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

George Leys, Treasurer  
Buffalo Valley Water District  
P.O. Box 321  
Moran, Wyoming 83013

Re: Administrative Order issued to Buffalo Valley Water District Public Water System,  
PWS ID# WY5600435, Docket No. **SDWA-08-2014-0015**

Dear Mr. Leys:

Enclosed is an Administrative Order (Order) issued by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (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 the Buffalo Valley Water District (District), as owner and/or operator of the District's 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 that may have been distributed but not submitted, any updates to the number of service connections and/or individuals served, etc.).

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 penalties and/or a federal court injunction ordering compliance.

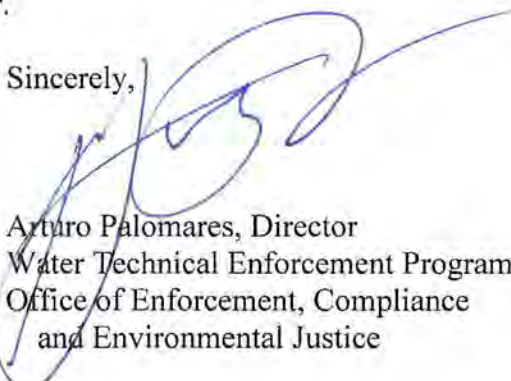
The Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act (SBREFA) may apply to this situation. Enclosed is a small business information sheet, outlining compliance assistance resources available to small businesses and small governments, in case these are relevant. SBREFA does not eliminate the responsibility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

The Order requires the District to notify the public of having violated the Drinking Water Regulations. Enclosed please find a public notice template explaining the public notice requirements in more detail.

To submit information, to request paper copies of public notice forms and instructions, or to request an informal conference with the EPA, please contact Jill Minter at the above address (with the mailcode 8ENF-W) 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) 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:

Order  
SBREFA Information Sheet  
Public Notice Template

cc:

WY DEQ/DOH (via email)  
Tina Artemis, EPA Regional Hearing Clerk  
Si Matthis, Board Chairman, Buffalo Valley Water District



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MAY 21 2014

Ref: 8ENF-W

CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUEST

Teton County Commissioners  
c/o Hank Phibbs, Chairman  
Post Office Box 3594  
Jackson, WY 83001

Re: Notice of Safe Drinking Water Act Enforcement Action against Buffalo Valley Water District  
Public Water System, PWS ID # WY5600435


Dear Commissioners:

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

An Administrative Order (Order) is being issued to the Buffalo Valley Water District, which owns the Buffalo Valley Water District public water system, located in Teton County, WY, directing it to comply with the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations. The violations alleged in the Order include: failing to monitor for total coliform bacteria, failing to monitor for chlorine residual, failing to notify the public of certain violations, and failing to report certain violations to the EPA.

For more details, a copy of the Order is enclosed. **The Order does not require any response or action by the County Commission.** If you have any questions regarding this Order, please contact Jill Minter at (303) 312-6084.

Sincerely,



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

Enclosure:

Administrative Order

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 8

2014 MAY 21 AM 8:08

IN THE MATTER OF: \_\_\_\_\_ )  
 )  
Buffalo Valley Water District, )  
 )  
 )  
 )  
Respondent. \_\_\_\_\_ )

Docket No. **SDWA-08-2014-0015**

EPA REGION VIII  
HEARING CLERK

**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. Buffalo Valley Water District (Respondent) is a public body created by or pursuant to Wyoming law that owns and/or operates the Buffalo Valley Public Water System (System), which provides piped water to the public in Teton County, Wyoming, for human consumption.
3. The System is supplied by a groundwater source consisting of one well. The water is disinfected with a sodium hypochlorite solution prior to storage and distribution. The System's water is not treated to at least a 4-log, 99.99% removal of viruses.
4. The System has approximately 22 service connections used by year-round residents and/or regularly serves an average of approximately 50 year-round residents. Therefore, the System is a "public water system" and a "community water system" as defined in 40 C.F.R. § 141.2 and section 1401 of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300f.
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 monthly for total coliform bacteria. 40 C.F.R. § 141.21(a). Respondent failed to monitor the System's water for total coliform bacteria during the months of September 2012 and October 2013 and, therefore, violated this requirement.
8. Respondent is required to monitor the residual disinfectant level in the System's distribution system at the same time and place as total coliforms are to be sampled under 40 C.F.R. § 141.21. 40 C.F.R. § 132(c)(1). Respondent failed to monitor the System's water for residual chlorine during the months of March 2010, February 2012, and February 2014, and, therefore, violated this requirement.

9. Respondent is required to notify the public of certain violations of the Drinking Water Regulations, 40 C.F.R. §§ 141.201-141.211. Respondent failed to notify the public of one of the violations cited in paragraph 8, above, the February 2012 failure to monitor chlorine residual, and therefore, violated this requirement. Public notices for the 2013 and 2014 violations listed in paragraphs 7 and 8, above, are not yet overdue.
10. Respondent is required to report any failure to comply with any coliform monitoring requirement to the EPA within 10 days after discovering the violation. 40 C.F.R. § 141.21(g)(2). Respondent failed to report the violations cited in paragraph 7, above, to EPA and, therefore, violated this requirement.
11. 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 8 and 9, 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):

12. Respondent shall monitor the System's water monthly for total coliform bacteria and, if any sample is positive for total coliform, conduct repeat and additional routine monitoring, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 141.21. Respondent shall report 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 in 40 C.F.R. part 141 to the EPA within 10 days after discovering the violation, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 141.21(g)(2).
13. Respondent shall monitor the residual disinfectant level in the System's water in the distribution system at the same time and place it collects the total coliform samples, as required by 40 C.F.R. §§ 141.132(c)(1) and 141.21. No later than 10 days after the end of each quarter, Respondent shall report residual disinfectant sample results required by 40 C.F.R. § 141.132(c)(1) to the EPA, as required by 40 C.F.R. § 141.134.
14. Within 30 days after receipt of this Order, Respondent shall notify the public of the violations cited in paragraph 8, above, following the instructions provided with the public notice template provided to the Respondent with this Order. 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.
15. 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.

16. If the population or number of connections served by the System falls below 25 individuals or 15 connections, Respondent shall notify the EPA in writing within 10 days.

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

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 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.

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

U.S. EPA Region 8 (8P-W-DW)  
1595 Wynkoop Street  
Denver, Colorado 80202-1129

#### **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

20. 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.

21. Violation of any part of this Order or the Drinking Water Regulations may subject Respondent to a civil penalty of up to \$37,500 (as adjusted for inflation) per day of violation. 42 U.S.C. § 300g-3; 40 C.F.R. part 19.

22. 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).

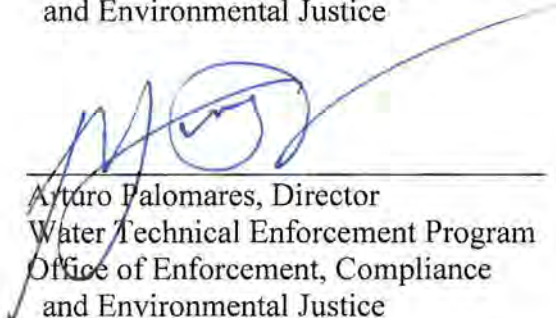


Buffalo Valley Water District, Respondent  
Buffalo Valley Water System  
Page 4 of 4

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

Issued: May 21, 2014

David Rulli for JHE  
James H. Eppers, Supervisory Attorney  
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 Buffalo Valley Water District

Our water system violated several drinking water regulations over the compliance period shown below. As our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we 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 indicators of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. We did not monitor for total coliform bacteria during February 2014. In addition, we did not monitor the residual chlorine level during the months of February 2012 and February 2014. Therefore, we cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during those times.

### 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 compliance period, how often we are supposed to sample and 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 taken.

Contaminant	Required sampling frequency and number of samples	When samples should have been taken	When samples were taken
Total coliform bacteria	1 sample per month	October 2013	November 2013
Chlorine residual	Monitor the residual disinfectant level at the same time and place as total coliform bacteria (1 sample per month)	February 2012 February 2014	March 2012 March 2014

### What happened? What is being done?

For more information, please contact: George Leys, Administrative Contact, Buffalo Valley Water District, (307) 543-2555, [gleys@wyoming.com](mailto:gleys@wyoming.com)

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*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 Buffalo Valley Water District. Public Water System ID#: WY5600435.

Date distributed or dates posted: \_\_\_\_\_.



**ATTENTION: PWS Operator/Responsible Party**

For monitoring violations, you must provide public notice to persons served within one year after you learn of the violation (141.204(b)).

Community systems must use one of the following methods of delivery (141.204(c)):

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

Non-community systems must use one of the following methods of delivery (141.204(c)):

- Posting in conspicuous locations
- Hand delivery
- Mail

In addition, both community and non-community systems must use *another* method reasonably calculated to reach others *if they would not be reached* by the first method (141.204(c)). Such methods could include newspapers, email, or delivery to community organizations. If you post the notice, it must remain posted until the violation is resolved. If the violation has been resolved, you must post the notice for at least one week (141.204(b)). If you mail, post, or hand deliver, print your notice on letterhead, if available.

**Corrective Actions**

In your notice, describe corrective actions you took or are taking. This could include information stating that you have since taken or are in the process of taking the required samples.

**After Issuing the Notice**

Within ten days after issuing the notice, you must send to EPA a copy of each type of notice, along with a certification (see below) that you have met all the public notice requirements. Mail copies to:

Jill Minter  
 Water Technical Enforcement Program (8ENF-W)  
 US EPA Region 8  
 1595 Wynkoop Street  
 Denver, CO 80202-1129

Or, you can fax a copy to: Attn: Jill Minter at 303-312-7518.

**Certification of Public Notification**

I \_\_\_\_\_ certify that the attached public notification was issued from  
(PWS Operator/Responsible Party)

\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date) (Date)

The attached notice was issued by \_\_\_\_\_  
(Method of delivery)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## U.S. EPA Small Business Resources Information Sheet

The United States Environmental Protection Agency provides an array of resources, including workshops, training sessions, hotlines, websites and guides, 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.

### EPA's Small Business Websites

Small Business Environmental Homepage - [www.smallbiz-enviroweb.org](http://www.smallbiz-enviroweb.org)

Small Business Gateway - [www.epa.gov/smallbusiness](http://www.epa.gov/smallbusiness)

EPA's Small Business Ombudsman - [www.epa.gov/sbo](http://www.epa.gov/sbo) or 1-800-368-5888

#### EPA's Compliance Assistance Homepage

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

This page is a gateway to 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

[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) 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)

#### Printed Wiring Board Manufacturing

[www.pwbrc.org](http://www.pwbrc.org)

#### Printing

[www.pneac.org](http://www.pneac.org)

#### Ports

[www.portcompliance.org](http://www.portcompliance.org)

#### U.S. Border Compliance and Import/Export Issues

[www.bordercenter.org](http://www.bordercenter.org)

#### Hotlines, Helplines and Clearinghouses

[www.epa.gov/epahome/hotline.htm](http://www.epa.gov/epahome/hotline.htm)

EPA sponsors many free hotlines and clearinghouses that provide convenient assistance regarding environmental requirements. Some examples are:

#### Antimicrobial Information Hotline

[info-antimicrobial@epa.gov](mailto:info-antimicrobial@epa.gov) or  
1-703-308-6411

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

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

#### Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act

[www.epa.gov/superfund/resources/  
infocenter/epcra.htm](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/resources/infocenter/epcra.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/safewater/hotline/index.  
html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/hotline/index.html) or 1-800-426-4791

#### Stratospheric Ozone Protection Hotline

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

## **Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Hotline**

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

## **Wetlands Information Helpline**

[www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/wetline.html](http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/wetline.html) or 1-800-832-7828

## **State and Tribal Web-Based Resources**

### **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.smallbiz-enviroweb.org](http://www.smallbiz-enviroweb.org)

State SBEAPs help small businesses and assistance providers understand environmental requirements and sustainable business practices through workshops, trainings and site visits. The website is a central point for sharing resources between EPA and states.

### **EPA's Tribal Compliance Assistance Center**

[www.epa.gov/tribalcompliance/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/tribalcompliance/index.html)

The Center provides material to Tribes on environmental stewardship and regulations that might apply to tribal government operations.

### **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/compliance/incentives/smallbusiness/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/compliance/incentives/smallbusiness/index.html)

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

#### **EPA's Audit Policy**

[www.epa.gov/compliance/incentives/auditing/auditpolicy.html](http://www.epa.gov/compliance/incentives/auditing/auditpolicy.html)

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), or go to their website at [www.sba.gov/ombudsman](http://www.sba.gov/ombudsman).

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.*