



REGION 8

DENVER, CO 80202

FILED

Feb 12, 2025

5:44 pm

**U.S. EPA REGION 8
HEARING CLERK**

February 12, 2025

Ref: 8ECA-W-S

SENT VIA CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

The Honorable Larry Stepp, Mayor
Town of La Barge
P.O. Box 327
La Barge, WY 83123

Subj: Administrative Order issued to Town of La Barge regarding the La Barge Public Water System, PWS ID #WY5600222, Docket No. SDWA-08-2025-0010

Dear Mayor Stepp:

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. § 300g3(g). Among other things, the Order alleges that the Town of La Barge (Town), as owner and operator of the La Barge Public Water System (System), has violated the EPA's drinking water regulations at 40 C.F.R. part 141 (Part 141). The EPA is issuing this Order because our previous compliance assurance efforts have not been effective in returning the System to compliance with Part 141.

The Order is effective upon the date received. Please review the Order and within 10 business days provide the EPA with any pertinent information you believe the EPA may not have. If the EPA does not hear from you, the EPA will assume this information is correct. If the Town complies with the Order, the EPA may close the Order without further action. Failure to comply with the Order may trigger immediate action by the EPA, including a complaint seeking administrative penalties. The complaint may lead to assessment of civil penalties of up to \$71,545 (as adjusted for inflation) per day of violation, a court injunction ordering compliance, or both. 42 U.S.C. § 300g-3; 40 C.F.R. part 19; 90 Fed. Reg. at 1375 (January 8, 2025).

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ID #WY5600222*

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 entities, in case these are relevant. SBREFA does not eliminate the responsibility to comply with the Order or Part 141. Also enclosed are several templates and fact sheets to assist the Town in addressing the outstanding violations.

Please be aware that the Town is required to submit to the EPA a plan and schedule for bringing the System into compliance with Part 141. The EPA's approval of the Town's schedule does not substitute for any other approval that may be required by any other governmental entity for modifying the System. The EPA encourages the Town to contact any such governmental agency or agencies regarding any applicable approval requirements.

If you have any questions or to request an informal conference with the EPA, please contact Chris Brown via email at brown.christopher.t@epa.gov, or by phone at (800) 227-8917, extension 6669, or (303) 312-6669. Any questions from the Town's attorney should be directed to Mia Bearley, Senior Assistant Regional Counsel, via email at 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,

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

ENCLOSURES

cc:

WY DEQ/DOH (via email)
Lincoln County Commissioners (teri.bowers@lincolncountywy.gov)
EPA Regional Hearing Clerk (r8_hearing_clerk@epa.gov)
The Honorable Larry Stepp, Mayor c/o (clerk@townoflabarge.org)
Zachary Bohm, Public Works Director (labargewaterops@yahoo.com)
Tanna Thoman, Operator (labargewaterops@yahoo.com)
Hannes Stueckler, WY DEQ Northwest District Engineer
(hannes.stueckler@wy.gov)