



**SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNOR**

Ryan Flynn, *Cabinet Secretary-Designate*

Butch Tongate, *Deputy Secretary*

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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**Contact:** Jim Winchester  
Communications Director  
New Mexico Environment Department  
(505)231-8800 / [jim.winchester@state.nm.us](mailto:jim.winchester@state.nm.us)

### **Environment Department Issues Public Reprimand To Certified Operator Gary Alan Goss**

(Ruidoso, N.M.) – The Resource Protection Division (“Division”) of the New Mexico Environment Department hereby issues this Public Reprimand to Certified Operator Gary Alan Goss (“Goss”). A Notice of Contemplated Action was filed against Goss on July 11, 2013 and amended on Sept. 16, 2013. The Notice of Contemplated Action alleged that Goss knowingly reported altered turbidity measurements, which were not the turbidity measurements of representative samples of the water provided to customers. Reporting of turbidity is required under the Safe Drinking Water Act (“SDWA”) to ensure the public of a safe drinking water supply. From June 1<sup>st</sup> through June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Goss reported turbidity values from a turbidimeter that had a cartridge filter installed on its inlet. Goss contends that he took such actions under the direction of his supervisor(s). Due to the fact that these samples passed through a filter prior to their reporting, they were not representative of the overall drinking water supplied to the public. As such the Division considered the reporting of these altered turbidity readings to be a dereliction of duty under the New Mexico Utility Operator Certification Act.

Goss has contested these allegations. To resolve the Notice of Contemplated Action and to assure the public and the state of his competence to continue as a water operator, Goss shall adhere to the following:

1. Goss’s drinking water operator certification will be re-classified to a Level 3.
2. Goss will remain a Level 3 drinking water operator for a period of one (1) year (365 days).
3. During the year in which Goss is a Level 3 drinking water operator, he must fulfill 60 hours of educational credits in the following areas: 15 hours of surface water treatment education; 15 hours of drinking water treatment and / or Safe Drinking Water Act related regulatory education; 15 hours of advanced water treatment education; and 15 hours of water treatment math.

4. To obtain a Level 4 drinking operator certification, Goss shall sit for the Level 4 exam. Goss may take the Level 4 exam before the conclusion of his 1-year re-classification. Goss shall not sit for the Level 4 exam until all educational credits have been completed and confirmed. If Goss successfully passes the Level 4 exam before the conclusion of his 1-year re-classification, he will not be permitted to transition to a Level 4 drinking water operator until the end of the 1-year re-classification.

5. Goss shall be monitored by a Level 4 certified operator for a period of one (1) year.

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