



SUSANA MARTINEZ  
Governor

JOHN A. SANCHEZ  
Lt. Governor

State of New Mexico  
**ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**  
Operations & Infrastructure Division  
DRINKING WATER BUREAU  
525 Camino de Los Marquez, Suite 4  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505  
Telephone (505)476-8620 Fax (505)476-8656  
Toll Free 1-877-654-8720  
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DAVID MARTIN  
Secretary

RAJ SOLOMON, PE  
Deputy Secretary

**CERTIFIED RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

# 7006 0810 0005 7274 5363

May 26, 2011

Jeanette Salazar  
Valley Estates Water & Sewer Association  
PO Box 3800  
Fairview, New Mexico 87533

**RE: Administrative Compliance Order, NO. 2011-CO-011, Valley Estates Water & Sewer Association, PWS# NM3503621**

Ms. Salazar:

Please find attached Administrative Compliance Order No. 2011-CO-011, issued to Valley Estates Water & Sewer Association, PWS# NM3503621, under the Environmental Improvement Act, NMSA 1978, § 74.1.10 and the Drinking Water Regulations, 20.7.10 NMAC. Please review the Administrative Compliance Order (Order) carefully to understand what actions must be taken to comply with the requirements of the Order. Valley Estates Water & Sewer Association has a right to answer the allegations in the Order and request a hearing, pursuant to NMSA 1978, §§ 74.1.10.E (available at [www.nmenv.state.nm.us](http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us)).

If you have any questions or need assistance with meeting the requirements of this Order, please contact Jeff Pompeo, Enforcement Coordinator at 505-476-8620 or via email at [Jeff.Pompeo@state.nm.us](mailto:Jeff.Pompeo@state.nm.us).

Sincerely,

Raj Solomon PE, Acting Division Director  
Operations & Infrastructure Division

cc. Danny Valenzuela, Water System Specialist, District II  
Jacob Sanders, Technical Services Specialist  
Chelo Hall, Region 6, EPA (Electronic)  
Electronic File  
Central File

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
SECRETARY OF ENVIRONMENT

NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT  
WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE  
DEVELOPMENT DIVISION,

Complainant,  
v.

No. 2011-CO-011

Valley Estates Water & Sewer Association,  
PWS# NM3503621,

Respondent.

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLIANCE ORDER**

Pursuant to the Environmental Improvement Act ("EIA"), NMSA 1978, § 74-1-10, and the Drinking Water Regulations ("DW Regulations"), 20.7.10 NMAC, the Secretary of the New Mexico Environment Department ("NMED"), acting through the Director of the Operations and Infrastructure Division of the NMED, issues this Administrative Compliance Order ("Order") to Valley Estates Water & Sewer Association ("Respondent") to enforce the EIA and DW Regulations.

**FINDINGS**

1. The NMED is an executive agency within the government of the State of New Mexico and is charged with administration and enforcement of the EIA, DW Regulations and UOCA.
2. Respondent owns and operates a public drinking water system ("System") located in Rio Arriba County, New Mexico.
3. The System is a Community water system, as defined by Section 20.7.10.100 NMAC, incorporating 40 C.F.R. § 141.2, that regularly provides piped drinking water to approximately

one hundred eighty five (185) year round residents and has approximately sixty eight (68) service connections to serve these year round residents.

4. Respondent, Valley Estates Water & Sewer Association, is a "person" as defined by the EIA, NMSA 1978, § 74-1-3, the UOCA, NMSA 1978, § 61-33-2.G, and 20.7.10.100 NMAC, incorporating 40 C.F.R. § 141.2.

5. Uranium samples were collected from Respondent's Well #3 on February 17, 2009, June 25, 2009, September 22, 2009, December 21, 2009, March 3, 2010, May 19, 2010, August 4, 2010 and November 18, 2010. Analysis of the samples resulted in Uranium concentrations of 54 micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ), 55  $\mu\text{g/L}$ , 53  $\mu\text{g/L}$ , 58  $\mu\text{g/L}$ , 50  $\mu\text{g/L}$ , 57  $\mu\text{g/L}$ , 56  $\mu\text{g/L}$ , and 58  $\mu\text{g/L}$  respectively.

6. Compliance with the Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL) for Uranium is determined by a Running Annual Average (RAA) as required by Section 20.7.10.100 NMAC, incorporating 40 C.F.R. § 141.26(c)(3)(i).

7. On July 8, 2010, a Notice of Violation (NOV) was issued to Respondent by NMED for violation of the Uranium MCL during the third and fourth quarter of 2009 and the first and second quarter of 2010.

### **VIOLATION ONE**

8. Respondent is in violation of Section 20.7.10.100 NMAC, incorporating 40 C.F.R. § 141.66(e), *Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL) for Uranium*, which requires a public water system to not exceed the Uranium MCL of 30  $\mu\text{g/L}$ . Respondent exceeded the MCL for Uranium at Well #3 during the third and fourth quarter of 2009 and the first, second, third, and

fourth quarter of 2010 with an RAA of 41 µg/L, 55 µg/L, 54 µg/L, 55 µg/L, 55 µg/L, and 55 µg/L respectively.

### **RETURN TO COMPLIANCE**

Based upon the foregoing, Respondent is hereby ordered to comply with the following:

9. By July 31, 2011, submit a proposed corrective action plan to NMED which includes a schedule and identifies steps that will be taken to bring the water system into full compliance with section 20.7.10.100 NMAC, incorporating 40 C.F.R. § 141.66(e), *MCL for Uranium*.

10. By July 31, 2014, be in compliance with Section 20.7.10.100 NMAC, incorporating 40 C.F.R. § 141.66(e), and provide drinking water with concentrations of Uranium below the MCL of 30 µg/L.

11. By July 31, 2015, have a RAA for Uranium below the MCL of 30 µg/L and be in compliance with 20.7.10.100 NMAC, incorporating 40 C.F.R. § 141.26(c)(3)(i).

12. Submittals made pursuant this Order shall be sent by standard U.S. mail or certified mail with return receipt requested to the following:

Jeff Pompeo, Enforcement Coordinator  
New Mexico Environment Department  
Drinking Water Bureau  
525 Camino de los Marquez, Suite 4  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

**IF RESPONDENT FAILS TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF PARAGRAPHS 9 THROUGH 12 OF THIS ORDER, THE SECRETARY OF NMED MAY ASSESS ADDITIONAL CIVIL PENALTIES NOT TO EXCEED ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000) FOR EACH INSTANCE OF NONCOMPLIANCE WITH THIS ORDER.**

## **RIGHT TO ANSWER AND REQUEST A HEARING**

Pursuant to NMSA 1978, §§ 61-33-120.E and 74-1-10.E and 20.1.5 NMAC (available at [www.nmenv.state.nm.us](http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us)), Respondent has the right to request a hearing. If Respondent (a) contests any material or legal matters upon which this Order is based; (b) contends that Respondent is entitled to prevail as a matter of law; or (c) otherwise contests the appropriateness of this Order, Respondent may mail or deliver within thirty (30) days of receipt of this Order a written Request for Hearing at the following:

Hearing Clerk  
New Mexico Environment Department  
P.O. Box 5469  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

Respondent must attach a copy of this Order to the Request for Hearing. 20.1.5.200.A(2)(d) NMAC.

The Request for Hearing shall include an Answer. Respondent's Answer shall clearly and directly admit, deny or explain each of the factual allegations contained in this Order with regard to which Respondent has any knowledge. Where Respondent has no knowledge of a particular factual allegation, Respondent should so state, and the Respondent may deny the allegation on that basis. Any allegation in this Order not specifically denied shall be deemed admitted. 20.1.5.200.A(2)(a) NMAC.

Respondent's Answer shall also include any affirmative defenses upon which Respondent intends to rely. Any affirmative defense not asserted in the Answer, except a defense asserting lack of subject matter jurisdiction, shall be deemed waived. 20.1.5.200.A(2)(b) NMAC.

Respondent's Answer shall be signed under oath or affirmation that the information contained therein is to the best of the signer's knowledge believed to be true and correct. 20.1.5.200.A(2)(c) NMAC.

### **FINALITY OF ORDER**

Pursuant to NMSA 1978, §§ 61-33-10.E and § 74-1-10.E, this Order shall become final unless the Respondent files a Request for Hearing with the Hearing Clerk within thirty (30) days of receipt of this Order.

### **SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE**

Whether or not a Request for Hearing has been filed, Respondent may confer with the NMED concerning settlement of this Order. The NMED encourages settlement consistent with the provisions and objectives of the EIA, the DW Regulations and the UOCA. Settlement discussions neither extend the thirty (30) day deadline for filing a Request for Hearing and Answer nor alter the deadline imposed for compliance with the mandate of this Order. Settlement discussion may be pursued as an alternative to, and simultaneously with, the hearing proceedings. Respondent may appear at the settlement conference alone or accompanied or represented by legal counsel.

A Stipulated Final Order shall finalize any settlement reached by the parties. The Stipulated Final Order must resolve all issues raised in this Order, shall be final and binding on all parties, and may not be appealed.

To explore the possibility of settlement in this matter, contact Jeff Pompeo, Enforcement Coordinator, Drinking Water Bureau, New Mexico Environment Department, 525 Camino de los Marquez, Santa Fe, NM 87505, (505) 476-8630.

### **COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS**

Compliance with the requirements of this Order does not relieve Respondent of the obligation to comply with all other applicable laws and regulations. This Order does not constitute a waiver, suspension, or modification of the requirements of 20.7.10 NMAC and

20.7.4 NMAC which remain in full force and effect. Issuance of this Order is not an election by the NMED to forgo any civil or criminal action otherwise authorized under the EIA.

**TERMINATION**

This Order shall terminate when Respondent certifies that all requirements of this Order have been met and the NMED has approved such certification in writing, or when the Secretary approves a Stipulated Final Order.



Raj Solomon P.E.  
Acting Director  
Operations and Infrastructure Division  
525 Camino de los Marquez, Suite 4  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

5/26/11  
Date

**Certificate of Service**

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Administrative Compliance Order was sent on 6/1, 2011 via certified return receipt requested to the following:

Ms. Jeanette Salazar  
Valley Estates Water & Sewer Association  
PO Box 3800  
Fairview New Mexico 87533



Frances Garcia