



NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT



SUSANA MARTINEZ
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Lieutenant Governor

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RYAN FLYNN
Cabinet Secretary
BUTCH TONGATE
Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
7005 1820 0001 5772 4351

March 9, 2016

Cleo Valdez
La Association de Agua de los Brazos
PO Box 87
Los Ojos, NM 87551

RE: Administrative Compliance Order, No. 2016-ACO-07 La Association de Agua de los Brazos, PWS# NM3566221

Ms. Valdez:

Please find attached Administrative Compliance Order No. 2016-ACO-07 issued to La Association de Agua de los Brazos, for La Association de Agua de los Brazos, PWS# NM3566221, 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 action must be taken to comply with the requirements of the Order. La Association de Agua de los Brazos has a right to answer the allegations in the Order and request a hearing, NMSA 1978, §§ 61-33-120.E and 74-1-10.E and 20.1.5 NMAC (available at www.env.nm.gov).

If you have any questions or need assistance with meeting the requirements of this Order, please contact Maria J. Medina, Enforcement Coordinator, at 505-476-8629 or via email at maria.medina@state.nm.us.

Sincerely,

Trais Kliphuis
Division Director
Water Protection Division

cc. Wayne Jeffs, Compliance Officer (Electronic)
Jenna Manheimer, Region 6, EPA (Electronic)
P:\~ ELECTRONIC CENTRAL FILE BY WATER SYSTEM
Central File

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
SECRETARY OF ENVIRONMENT

NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
WATER PROTECTION DIVISION,

Complainant,

No. 2016-ACO-07

v.

LA ASSOCIATION DE AGUA DE LOS BRAZOS,
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 Water Protection Division of the NMED, issues this Administrative Compliance Order (“Order”) to La Association de Agua de los Brazos (“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 and DW Regulations.

2. Respondent owns and operates a public drinking water system (“System”) La Association de Agua de los Brazos, PWS# NM3566221, 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 thirty two (32) residents and has approximately fifteen (15) service connections to serve these residents.

4. Respondent, La Association de Agua de los Brazos, is a “person” as defined by the EIA, NMSA 1978, § 74-1-3 and 20.7.10.100 NMAC, [incorporating 40 C.F.R. § 141.2].

5. 20.7.10.100 NMAC, [incorporating 40 C.F.R. § 141.74(b) and 141.570], requires a public water system that uses a surface water source or a ground water source under the direct influence of surface water to submit a monthly operating report (MOR) to the State.

6. On August 28, 2015, a Notice of Violation (NOV) was issued to Respondent by NMED for failure to submit a MOR for January 2015, February 2015, March 2015, April 2015, May 2015, June 2015 and July 2015. The NOV notified Respondent that it was required to provide public notice of the violation.

7. On September 30, 2015, a Notice of Violation (NOV) was issued to Respondent by NMED for failure to submit a MOR for August 2015. The NOV notified Respondent that it was required to provide public notice of the violation.

8. On November 13, 2015, a Notice of Violation (NOV) was issued to Respondent by NMED for failure to submit a MOR for September 2015 and October 2015. The NOV notified Respondent that it was required to provide public notice of the violation.

9. On December 15, 2015, a Notice of Violation (NOV) was issued to Respondent by NMED for failure to submit a MOR for November 2015. The NOV notified Respondent that it was required to provide public notice of the violation.

10. On January 13, 2016, a Notice of Violation (NOV) was issued to Respondent by NMED for failure to submit a MOR for December 2015. The NOV notified Respondent that it was required to provide public notice of the violation.

11. 20.7.10.100 NMAC, [incorporating 40 C.F.R. § 141.72(b)(3)], defines the disinfection requirements for public water systems which provide filtration.

12. On November 17, 2015, a Notice of Violation (NOV) was issued to Respondent by NMED for failure to maintain a detectable chlorine residual in at least 95 % of the samples collected in the distribution system during July 2015, August 2015, and September 2015. The NOV notified Respondent that it was required to provide public notice of the violation.

13. 20.7.10.100 NMAC, [incorporating 40 C.F.R. § 141.152(b) and 40 C.F.R. § 141.155(c)], requires that all community public water systems must provide a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) to their consumers and to the State by July 1st of each year.

14. On November 30, 2015, a Notice of Violation (NOV) was issued to Respondent by NMED for failure to provide a CCR for the 2014 calendar year to their consumers and the State by July 1, 2010.

VIOLATION 1

15. Respondent is in violation of 20.7.10.100 NMAC, [incorporating 40 C.F.R. § 141.74(b) and 141.570], which requires a public water system that uses a surface water source or a ground water source under the direct influence of surface water to submit a monthly operating report (MOR) to the State. Respondent failed to submit a MOR to the State for January 2015, February 2015, March 2015, April 2015, May 2015, June 2015, July 2015, August 2015, September 2015, October 2015, November 2015, and December 2015.

VIOLATION 2

16. Respondent is in violation of 20.7.10.100 NMAC, [incorporating 40 C.F.R. § 141.72(b)(3)], which defines the disinfection requirements for public water systems which provide filtration. Respondent failed to maintain a detectable chlorine residual in at least 95% of the samples collected in the distribution system during July 2015, August 2015, and September 2015.

VIOLATION 3

17. Respondent is in violation of 20.7.10.100 NMAC, [incorporating 40 C.F.R. § 141.152(b) and 40 C.F.R. § 141.155(c)], which requires that all community public water system must provide a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) to their consumers and to the State by July 1st of each year. Respondent failed to submit a CCR for the 2014 calendar year to their consumers and the State by July 1, 2015.

RETURN TO COMPLIANCE

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

18. By April 30, 2016, comply with 20.7.10.100 NMAC, [incorporating 40 C.F.R. § 141.74(b) and 141.570], and submit a MOR to the State.

19. By April 30, 2016, comply with 20.7.10.100 NMAC, [incorporating 40 C.F.R. § 141.72(b)(3)], and maintain a detectable chlorine residual in at least 95% of the samples collected in the distribution.

20. By June 30, 2016, comply with 20.7.10.100 NMAC, [incorporating 40 C.F.R. § 141.152(b) and 40 C.F.R. § 141.155(c)], and provide a CCR to consumers and the State.

21. Submittals made pursuant to paragraphs 18 through 20 of this Order shall be sent by standard U.S. mail or certified mail with return receipt requested to the following:

Maria J. Medina, Enforcement Coordinator
New Mexico Environment Department
Drinking Water Bureau
P.O. Box 5469
Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469

If respondent fails to comply with the requirements of paragraphs 18 through 21 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.env.nm.gov), 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 address:

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 and the DW Regulations. 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 Maria J. Medina, Drinking Water Bureau, New Mexico Environment Department, P.O Box 5469, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-5469, (505) 476-8629.

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.


Trais Kliphuis
Division Director
Water Protection Division
P.O Box 5469
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-5469

3/4/16
Date

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Administrative Compliance Order was sent on 3/9, 2016 via certified return receipt requested to the following:

Cleo Valdez
La Association de Agua de los Brazos
PO Box 87
Los Ojos, NM 87551



Maria J. Medina