



MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
Governor

HOWIE MORALES
Lt. Governor

**NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
Drinking Water Bureau**

1190 St. Francis Dr.
Santa Fe, NM, 87505
Phone (505) 476-8620 Fax (505) 476-8656
www.env.nm.gov/drinking_water/

**CERTIFIED RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
7016 2070 0000 6771 7265**



JAMES C. KENNEY
Cabinet Secretary

JENNIFER J. PRUETT
Deputy Secretary

December 20, 2019

Robert Cortez
Morningside Water Users Cooperative
2009 N. Pine
Artesia, NM 88210

**RE: Administrative Compliance Order, No. 2019-ACO-15 Morningside Water Users
Cooperative, PWS# NM3520408**

Mr. Cortez,

Please find attached Administrative Compliance Order No. 2019-ACO-15 issued to Morningside Water Coop, for Morningside Water Users Cooperative, PWS# NM3520408, 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. Morningside Water Coop 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,

Rebecca Roose
Division Director
Water Protection Division

cc. Compliance Officer (Electronic)
Region 6, EPA (Electronic)
ELECTRONIC CENTRAL FILE BY WATER SYSTEM

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
SECRETARY OF ENVIRONMENT

NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
WATER PROTECTION DIVISION,

Complainant,

No. 2019-ACO-15

v.

MORNINGSIDE WATER COOP,
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 Morningside Water Coop (“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”) Morningside Water Users Cooperative, PWS# NM3520408, located in Eddy 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 three hundred sixty-four (364) residents and has approximately one hundred thirty-seven (137) service connections to serve these residents.

4. Respondent, Morningside Water Coop, 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. § 141.855(b)], requires water systems to collect one (1) total coliform sample per month.

6. On June 14, 2019, a Notice of Violation (NOV) was issued to Respondent by NMED for failure to conduct routine total coliform monitoring for the month of May 2019. The NOV notified Respondent that it was required to provide public notice of the violation.

7. On July 26, 2019, an NOV was issued to Respondent by NMED for failure to conduct routine total coliform monitoring for the month of June 2019. The NOV notified Respondent that it was required to provide public notice of the violation.

8. On August 20, 2019, an NOV was issued to Respondent by NMED for failure to conduct routine total coliform monitoring for the month of July 2019. The NOV notified Respondent that it was required to provide public notice of the violation.

9. On September 13, 2019, an NOV was issued to Respondent by NMED for failure to conduct routine total coliform monitoring for the month of August 2019. The NOV notified Respondent that it was required to provide public notice of the violation.

10. On October 21, 2019, an NOV was issued to Respondent by NMED for failure to conduct routine total coliform monitoring for the month of September 2019. 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. § 141.403(a)(5)], requires a ground water system to either correct significant deficiencies or be in compliance with a State approved corrective action plan within 120 days of receiving written notice by the State of significant deficiency.

12. On July 30, 2018, an NOV was issued to Respondent by NMED for failure to correct significant deficiencies identified during the March 16, 2018, sanitary survey within 120 days of receiving written notice of deficiencies. 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. § 141.86], establishes monitoring requirements for lead and copper in tap water.

14. On December 19, 2018, an NOV was issued to Respondent by NMED for failure to conduct lead and copper sampling during the 2018 monitoring period. The NOV notified Respondent that it was required to provide public notice of the violation.

15. 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.

16. On September 18, 2017, an NOV was issued to Respondent by NMED for failure to provide a CCR for the 2016 calendar year to their consumers and the State by July 1, 2017.

17. On August 17, 2018, an NOV was issued to Respondent by NMED for failure to provide a CCR for the 2017 calendar year to their consumers and the State by July 1, 2018.

18. On July 8, 2019, an NOV was issued to Respondent by NMED for failure to provide a CCR for the 2018 calendar year to their consumers and the State by July 1, 2019.

VIOLATION 1

19. Respondent is in violation of 20.7.10.100 NMAC, [incorporating 40 C.F.R. § 141.855(b)], which requires water systems to collect one (1) total coliform sample per month. Respondent failed to collect total coliform samples during May 2019, June 2019, July 2019, August 2019, and September 2019.

VIOLATION 2

20. Respondent is in violation of 20.7.10.100 NMAC, [incorporating 40 C.F.R. § 141.403(a)(5)], which requires a ground water system to either correct significant deficiencies or be in compliance with a State approved corrective action plan within 120 days of receiving written notice by the State of significant deficiency. Respondent failed to correct significant deficiencies identified during the March 16, 2018, sanitary survey within 120 days of receiving written notice by the State.

VIOLATION 3

21. Respondent is in violation of 20.7.10.100 NMAC, [incorporating 40 C.F.R. § 141.86], which establishes monitoring requirements for lead and copper in tap water. Respondent failed to collect lead and copper samples during the 2018 monitoring period.

VIOLATION 4

22. 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 systems 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 2016, 2017, and 2018 calendar years to their consumers and the State by July 1, 2017, July 1, 2018, and July 1, 2019 respectively.

RETURN TO COMPLIANCE

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

23. By July 31, 2020, comply with 20.7.10.100 NMAC, [incorporating 40 C.F.R. § 141.855(b)], and collect total coliform samples for six (6) consecutive months (February 2020 through July 2020) and submit sample results to NMED.

24. By February 15, 2020, comply with 20.7.10.100 NMAC, [incorporating 40 C.F.R. § 141.403(a)(5)], and correct significant deficiencies identified during the March 16, 2018, sanitary survey (attached).

25. Between June 1, 2020 through June 30, 2019, comply with 20.7.10.100 NMAC, [incorporating 40 C.F.R. § 141.86], and collect lead and copper samples.

26. By February 15, 2020, 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 2016, 2017, and 2018 calendar years CCR to consumers and the State.

27. Submittals made pursuant to paragraphs 23 through 26 of this Order shall be sent by 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

Or

Email: maria.medina@state.nm.us

If respondent fails to comply with the requirements of paragraphs 23 through 27 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 all requirements of this Order have been met and the NMED provides notification of termination in writing, or when the Secretary approves a Stipulated Final Order.



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

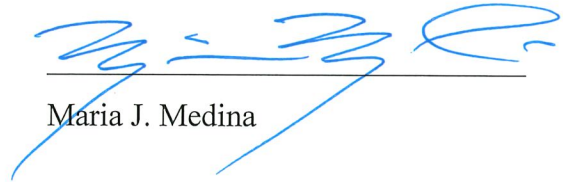


Date

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Administrative Compliance Order was sent on 12/20, 2019 via certified return receipt requested to the following:

Robert Cortez
Morningside Water Users Cooperative
2009 N. Pine
Artesia, NM 88210



Maria J. Medina