



**Notification provided via E-mail**

April 12, 2024

Eulalio S. Vallejos, [eulaliosvallejos@gmail.com](mailto:eulaliosvallejos@gmail.com)  
Aragon MDWCA, NM3523102  
HC 62, Box 757  
Aragon, NM 87820

**RE: Notice of Violation— Ground Water Rule  
Failure to Correct Significant Deficiencies**

Dear Eulalio Vallejos,

This letter serves as Notice of Violation that the Aragon MDWCA failed to correct significant deficiencies identified during the 2023 sanitary survey performed by the New Mexico Environment Department-Drinking Water Bureau (NMED-DWB). Pursuant to Section 20.7.10.101 NMAC [incorporating 40 CFR Section 141.401], public water systems must undergo an onsite inspection (sanitary survey) of the water source(s), facilities, equipment, operation, maintenance, and monitoring compliance of a public water system to evaluate the adequacy of the system, its sources and operations, and the distribution of safe drinking water.

A sanitary survey report was provided to the Aragon MDWCA on October 10, 2023 identifying significant deficiencies. Pursuant to 20.7.10.100 NMAC [incorporating 40 CFR Section 141.403], the Aragon MDWCA was required to consult with the NMED-DWB regarding the appropriate corrective actions within 30 days of receiving notice of the significant deficiencies. Within 120 days of the initial notification, the Aragon MDWCA was required to complete the corrective actions or be in compliance with an approved corrective action plan and schedule.

To date, the NMED-DWB has not received documentation verifying compliance with all significant deficiencies identified during the sanitary survey. Consequently, the Aragon MDWCA is in violation of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). If the Aragon MDWCA has already corrected the deficiencies, please submit documentation that verifies the deficiencies have been corrected.

Based on the failure to correct all the significant deficiencies identified, the Aragon MDWCA is required to notify customers of this Tier 2 violation as required in 20.7.10.100 NMAC [incorporating 40 CFR Section §141.203 (b)]. Public Notice must be made within 30 days from the date of this letter. The notice must be repeated every three months until the significant deficiency is corrected.

Additionally, as required in 20.7.10.100 NMAC [incorporating 40 CFR Section 141.403(a)(7)], the Aragon MDWCA must notify the public of any significant deficiency that has not been corrected and continue to inform the public annually until the significant deficiency is corrected.

Pursuant to 20.7.10.100 NMAC [incorporating 40 CFR Section 141.31(d)], within 10 days of completing the public notification requirements as stated above, the Aragon MDWCA must certify that the notice was published and specify the method of publication by submitting a completed copy of the enclosed Public Notification Certification Form. A representative copy of each type of notice distributed, published, posted, and made available to the persons served by the system must be included with the certification form.

Please fill out and return the enclosed Public Notice Certification Form to: [aaron.beckworth@env.nm.gov](mailto:aaron.beckworth@env.nm.gov)

Failure to comply with the public notice requirements will result in an additional violation being issued without notice to the Aragon MDWCA and reported to the Environmental Protection Agency. Continued failure to comply with public notice requirements will result in escalated enforcement actions including issuance of Administrative Orders with possible penalties assessed against The Aragon MDWCA.

NMED-DWB reserves the right to take additional enforcement action regarding the violations identified in this NOV, to include the issuance of an Administrative Compliance Order compelling compliance and issuing civil penalties.

Pursuant to the NMED Delegation Order dated February 19, 2024, the Cabinet Secretary has delegated the authority to issue Notice of Violations to DWB Compliance Supervisor Brandi Littleton.

Please note that your facility will appear on the Department's Enforcement Watch as a result of this NOV (see: <https://www.env.nm.gov/enforcement-watch/>). Further, the Department will issue a press release to local media highlighting your public water system as appearing on this webpage. Your public water system will remain on the Enforcement Watch website as an active matter until this matter is fully resolved.

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact DWB Compliance Officer Aaron Beckworth at 505-372-8174 or by e-mail to: [aaron.beckworth@env.nm.gov](mailto:aaron.beckworth@env.nm.gov)

Respectfully,



Brandi Littleton, Compliance Supervisor  
Drinking Water Bureau  
Water Protection Division

Enclosures:    Public Notice Template  
                  Public Notice Certification Form

xc: Martin Torrez, PWSS Manager (electronic)  
      Aaron Beckworth, Compliance Officer (electronic)  
      Electronic Central File

## Instructions for GWR Failure to Take Corrective Action Within Required Time Frame Notice

### Template on Following Page

A system's failure to take corrective action within the required timeframe or be in compliance with a state-approved corrective action plan and schedule for a significant deficiency under the Ground Water Rule is a treatment technique violation and requires Tier 2 notification. You must provide public notice to persons served as soon as practical but within 30 days after you learn of the violation 20.7.10.100 NMAC [incorporating 40 CFR 141.203(b)]. You must issue a repeat notice every three months for as long as the violation persists.

Community systems must use one of the following methods 20.7.10.100 NMAC [incorporating 40 CFR 141.203(c)]:

- Hand or direct delivery
- Mail, as a separate notice or included with the bill

Noncommunity systems must use one of the following methods 20.7.10.100 NMAC [incorporating 40 CFR 141.203(c)]:

- Posting in conspicuous locations
- Hand delivery
- Mail

In addition, both community and noncommunity systems must use *another* method reasonably calculated to reach others if they would not be reached by the first method 20.7.10.100 NMAC [incorporating 40 CFR 141.203(c)]. Such methods could include newspapers, e-mail, or delivery to community organizations. If you mail, post, or hand deliver, print your notice on your system's letterhead if available.

The notice on the reverse is appropriate for mailing, posting, or hand delivery. If you modify this notice, you must still include all required PN elements from 40 CFR 141.205(a) and leave the mandatory language unchanged (see below).

### **Mandatory Language**

Mandatory language on health effects (from Appendix B to Subpart Q) must be included as written (with blanks filled in) and is presented in this notice in italics and with an asterisk on either end.

You must also include standard language to encourage the distribution of the public notice to all persons served, where applicable 20.7.10.100 NMAC [incorporating 40 CFR 141.205(d)]. This language is also presented in this notice in italics and with an asterisk on either end.

### **Corrective Action**

In your notice, describe corrective actions you are taking. Listed below are some steps commonly taken by water systems with Ground Water Rule treatment technique violations. Depending on the corrective action you are taking, you can use one or more of the following statements, if appropriate, or develop your own text:

- Although we did not meet our deadline, we are now in consultation with the state to develop a corrective action plan.
- The significant deficiency has been identified and addressed.
- We have implemented a short-term plan to address the immediate issue while we pursue the long-term solution.

### **Repeat Notices**

For repeat notices, you should state how long the violation has been ongoing and remind consumers of when you sent out any previous notices. If you are making progress with correcting the significant deficiency or addressing the fecal indicator-positive source sample, describe it. Alternatively, if funding or other issues are delaying corrective action, let consumers know.

### **After Issuing the Notice**

Make sure to send The New Mexico Environment Department's Drinking Water Bureau a copy of each type of notice and a certification that you have met all public notification requirements within ten days after issuing the notice 20.7.10.100 NMAC [incorporating 40 CFR 141.31(d)].

**\*\*PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM MUST APPROPRIATELY MODIFY THIS PUBLIC NOTICE TO INCLUDE UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION REGARDING THE VIOLATION AS WELL AS INFORMATION ABOUT THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE VIOLATION'S AFFECT ON THE WATER SYSTEM. PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM OFFICIAL MUST DELETE THIS PARAGRAPH ONCE PUBLIC NOTICE HAS BEEN APPROPRIATELY UPDATED, PRIOR TO SENDING OUT TO THE PUBLIC\*\***

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**

### **Aragon MDWCA Failed to Correct Significant Deficiencies Within Required Time Frame**

*Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda*

Our water system recently violated a drinking water requirement. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation.

A routine inspection conducted on August 31, 2023 by the New Mexico Environment Department-Drinking Water Bureau (NMED DWB) found the following significant deficiencies with our water system.

- 1. Cross-connections are present in the water system**
- 2. Storage facility is not secured from unauthorized entry**
- 3. Storage facility is not secured from the elements**

As required by Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Ground Water Rule, we were required to take action to correct these deficiencies. However, we failed to take this action by the deadline established by the NMED-DWB.

#### **What should I do?**

- There is nothing you need to do. You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

#### **What does this mean?**

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours.

*\*Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.\**

These symptoms, however, are not caused only by organisms in drinking water, but also by other factors. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.

#### **What is being done?**

[Describe corrective action.] We anticipate resolving all deficiencies within [estimated time frame] (or the problem was resolved on [give date]).

#### **For more information, please contact:**

Eulalio Vallejos  
HC62, Box 757  
Aragon, NM 87820  
575-533-6463

*\*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.\**

