CONFIDENTIAL

WEEKLY HOT TOPICS REPORT for RA/DRA Region 8
Week ending July 27, 2018

OFFICE OF ECOSYSTEMS PROTECTION AND REMEDIATION

HOT ISSUES AND IMPORTANT DEADLINES:

Bonita Peak Mining District Superfund Site
Key Message: Impacts of Inspection and storm activities at Cement Creek.

- On July 21, 2018, at 0930 hours the On-site EPA OSC entered the adit of American Tunnel to assess and plan for installation of a flume inside the adit.
- The American Tunnel discharges approximately 100 gallons per minute to Cement Creek.
- The inspection activities re-suspended precipitated solids, causing the discharge water to become orange (iron colored).
- The discolored discharge from the adit impacted Cement Creek visually for approximately one-half mile downstream.
- Several hours later a rainstorm caused widespread discoloration throughout the length of Cement Creek, a typical occurrence in the highly mine impacted watershed during the monsoon season. EPA response typically reports activities for situation awareness where disturbances by EPA have caused discolored water in Cement Creek.
- Along with the EPA Region 8 Phone-Duty OSC, key EPA Management and Bonita Peak Mining District Stakeholders, BLM, and EPA regions 9, 6 and HQs were also notified. For further information contact the On-Site EPA OSC.
- Contact: Kerry Guy at 303-808-3831

OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT, COMPLIANCE & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

HOT ISSUES AND IMPORTANT DEADLINES:

SDWA Enforcement Unit is issuing an Administrative Order to Town of Granger Public Water System located in Sweetwater County, Wyoming
Key Message: Alleged violations are for failure to report and monitor Disinfection Byproducts and Disinfection Byproduct Precursors in February and April 2017, and exceeding the maximum turbidity limit in June 2017.

- The order is expected to be issued the week of July 23.
- The order requires the system to monitor as required by drinking water regulations and maintain treatment to avoid turbidity exceedances.
- The system serves approximately 139 year-round residents.
- EPA is taking this action because the state does not have delegation.
- Technical Contact: Olive Hofstader, 312-6467; Management Contact: Tiffany Cantor, 312-6521

ED_002434_00001138-00001

PAST WEEK ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

SDWA Enforcement Unit Issued an Emergency Administrative Order to Flying X Ranch Mobile Home Park in Albany County

Key Message: On July 17, 2018, EPA issued a 1431 Order in response to a potential imminent and substantial endangerment at Flying X Ranch Mobile Home Park public water system located 30 miles southwest of Wheatland, Wyoming.

- The operator notified EPA in the early evening on July 13, 2018, that the System had an E. coli maximum contaminant level exceedance.
- E. coli can cause symptoms such as diarrhea, nausea, cramps, headaches, and may pose a greater risk for infants, elderly, and immunocompromised individuals.
- The system is currently serving approximately 140 residents and is a shared-ownership vacation property with mobile homes, cabins, and camping sites. There are 4 active wells and water is disinfected with sodium hypochlorite tablets at the two 2,500-gallon storage tanks
- OWP proactively provided the operator with a boil order advisory to post over the weekend and notified WY DEQ, Department of Health (includes the State Epidemiologist) and Wyoming Association of Rural Water Systems (WARWS).
- A Circuit Rider with the Wyoming Association of Rural Water Systems (WARWS) visited the system Monday to provide technical assistance to aid in assessing the source of contamination.
- EPA informed the system representative of the requirements of the Emergency Administrative Order. These requirements include providing an alternative water supply (e.g., bottled water), posting a boil water advisory, coordinating with an EPA contractor to conduct a Level 2 Revised Total Coliform Rule Assessment, providing EPA with a plan and schedule that outlines actions to be taken to ensure there is no future E. coli contamination at the System, and performing the necessary corrective actions.
- Prior to issuance, EPA consulted with OECA on the EAO.
- Technical Contact: Christina Carballal-Broome, 312- 6046; Management Contact: Tiffany Cantor, 312-6521

SDWA Enforcement Unit Plans to Issue a SDWA Emergency Administrative Order to the Agnes Leggins Water System on the Fort Belknap Reservation in Montana

Key Message: On July 19, 2018, EPA plans to issue a 1431 Order in response to a potential imminent and substantial endangerment at Agnes Leggins Water System located on the Fort Belknap Reservation in Montana.

- On July 18, 2018, the Lead Operator notified the EPA of a pump failure, which occurred the previous night. The system was without water.
- The Tribe proactively provided bottled water on July 18, 2018.
- The system is in the process of identifying the cause of the pump failure.
- Loss of pressure in a drinking water distribution system may cause backsiphonage, which can allow disease causing organisms to enter the distribution system.
- OWP provided the system with a boil water advisory shortly after learning of the pressure loss on July 18, 2018.
- EPA will consult with the Tribe to reiterate the requirements of the Emergency Administrative Order. Those requirements include providing an alternative source of water and posting/delivering boil water advisory immediately; identifying and repairing the cause of the pump failure; disinfecting and flushing the system after making repairs; and the boil advisory must remain in effect until notified by EPA.
- The system serves 100 year-round residents.

ED_002434_00001138-00002

- Per our EPA protocol, the Water Enforcement Director will coordinate with OECA prior to issuance of the order.
- Technical Contact: Jill Minter 312-6084; Management Contact: Tiffany Cantor, 312-6521

OFFICE OF PARTNERSHIPS AND REGULATORY ASSISTANCE
No report

OFFICE OF TECHNICAL AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES
No report

OFFICE OF WATER PROTECTION

HOT ISSUES AND IMPORTANT DEADLINES:

Region 8 Preparing to Take Action on Colorado's 2018 303(d) List
Key Message: By August 3, 2018, Region 8, in consultation with OWOW, is preparing to take a partial approval/deferral action on Colorado's 2018 303(d) list of impaired waters. Region 8 plans to approve all assessment units on Colorado's list (512 assessment units, with 841 waterbody/pollutant combinations). Region 8 will defer action on two segments of the Dolores River that were removed from the 303(d) list as being impaired by temperature.

- The Colorado Water Quality Control Division proposed that two segments of the Dolores River remain on the state 303(d) list due to exceedances of the temperature standard which affect aquatic life use. However, the Water Quality Control Commission removed the impairment listing, citing comments from a stakeholder regarding inconsistent language in Colorado water quality rules and guidance.
- The Water Quality Control Division and Water Quality Control Commission, as well as other interested stakeholders, are committed to addressing the inconsistency between the Regulation #93 and the 2018 303(d) Listing Methodology this fall.
- EPA expects the state, the Conservation District, and environmental stakeholders will support the above actions.
- Contact: Johanna Miller 312-6804

Two EPA Region 8 Tribes were successful in submitting proposals for the *Tribal Competitive Nonpoint Source Management Grants Under Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 319*
Key Message**:** The Southern Ute Indian Tribe (SUIT) and Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribe (CSKT) were both selected for competitive awards of $100,000. These selected proposals will fund the development and implementation of watershed-based plans designed to restore nonpoint source-impaired waters.

- The goal of the CSKT proposal is to reduce water temperatures in Valley Creek, a tributary to the Jocko River, located on the Flathead Indian Reservation, and concurrently increase riparian wetland function in the stream corridor.
- The SUIT proposal addresses nutrient and sediment impairments in the Spring Creek watershed through conducting a restoration project of 2300 feet of streambank on Spring Creek.
- Contacts: Peter Monahan, 312-6946; Judy Bloom 312-6395

ED_002434_00001138-00003