



**Ms. Erica Kannley**  
**Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment**  
Water Quality Control Division  
Drinking Water Compliance Assurance  
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South  
Denver, Colorado 80246-1530  
Email: [erica.kannely@state.co.us](mailto:erica.kannely@state.co.us)

**Town of Merino**  
206 Colorado Avenue  
Merino, Colorado 80741  
Phone 970-522-1036  
Fax 970-526-2110  
[water@town.merino.co.us](mailto:water@town.merino.co.us)

**Re: System Improvement Project - Progress Report**

April 1, 2015

Dear Erica:

Enclosed you will find the progress report due February 28, 2015 indicating the status of the system improvements project the Town of Merino is undertaking pursuant to Enforcement Order DC-090116-3, as amended, including corrections per your email of March 25, 2015. As discussed on the phone, I was late in submitting the 4Q2014 report and combined those report items in the current report. Per your direction we will not submit a separate 4Q2014 report.

Should you have any questions or comments, please contact Jesse Norell by phone at (970) 521-2460, or by electronic mail at [water@town.merino.co.us](mailto:water@town.merino.co.us).

Sincerely,

Jesse Norell  
Town of Merino Water Committee

cc: Robert Jones, Town of Merino Mayor  
Jada Gettman, Town of Merino Clerk  
Kent Sager, Town of Merino Water committee  
Boyd Hanzon, P.E., Rocky Mountain Water Solutions

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**System Improvement Project - Progress Report**  
**Town of Merino, Colorado**  
Public Water System # CO-0138025

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**April 1, 2015**

Pursuant to the requirements set forth in Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment **Enforcement Order DC-090116-3** as amended May 23, 2011, **paragraph 19**, the following report is submitted regarding the progress of water system improvements undertaken by the Town of Merino to address violation of maximum contaminant levels for radionuclides, specifically including uranium.

## **Status**

The Town of Merino continues to seek a solution to the violation of MCL for uranium in their water supply. The Town is still awaiting CDPHE approval of the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) submitted in June 2013, pending a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) following the revised Environmental Assessment submitted in November 2013.

Activity since the previous Status Report:

- The Town has received and reviewed proposals for the Membrane Water Treatment System equipment, and the Town Board selected the equipment to be used;
- The Logan County Planning Commission recommended approval of the Conditional Use Permit for the water treatment residuals evaporation pond site;
- Work has progressed on the Water System Improvements preliminary design.
- A draft Basis of Design Memorandum was completed and submitted to CDPHE which indicated that the cost of the water system improvements would exceed the amount of funds available.

## **Public Notification**

Pursuant to paragraph 18 of the order, the Town of Merino began issuing public notice of uranium MCL violation as of March 31, 2009, and continues to issue notice every three (3) months in accordance with 5 CCR 1003-1, Article 9.2. A representative copy of a recent notice is attached as Exhibit A. The date of the next notice due is March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015.

## **Upcoming Activities**

During the next ninety (90) days, the following activities are planned:

- We expect the Logan County Commissioners to approve the Conditional Use permit;
- We are working with the RO equipment supplier to try to find ways to bring the cost down;
- The preliminary design documents will be completed and submitted to the CDPHE for approval;
- Final design documents will be completed and submitted to the CDPHE for approval.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kent Sager by phone at (970) 521-2453, or by electronic mail at [kent@kci.net](mailto:kent@kci.net).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Sager', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kent Sager  
Town of Merino Water Committee

## Appendix A

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER Town of Merino Has Levels of Combined Uranium Above Drinking Water Standards

Due to Enforcement Order number DC-090116-3, we are required to issue public notices in accordance with 5 CC 1003-1, Article 9.2 for uranium MCL violations. Following notice, we are required to submit a certificate of delivery and representative copies of the notice to CDPHE.

Our water system continues to be in violation of a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation. We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Testing results for August 8, 2014 show that our system continues to exceed the standard or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for Combined Uranium. The standard for Combined Uranium is 30 Micrograms (ug/L). The average level of Combined Uranium over the last year was 31 ug/L..

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

Because of the high levels of Combined Uranium and the time it will take to correct the problem, you may want to use an alternative drinking water supply (e.g., bottled water or other source with levels of Uranium known to be below the MCL). If you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

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

The effects of exposure to these contaminants are not likely to be acutely apparent. However,

**Gross Alpha:** Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of cancer.

**Combined radium 226+228:** Some people who drink water containing radium 226 and 228 in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

**Uranium:** Some people who drink water that contains uranium in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer and kidney toxicity.

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

Combined Uranium in drinking water is the result of erosion of naturally occurring deposits in the soil and rock formations.

We (The Town of Merino) have appointed a citizen's committee to address the issue with our water. This committee is working with the State of Colorado to determine the best resolution for our town.

If you have any questions, please feel free to mail your questions or concerns to Bill Wright at 632 Beattie, Sterling, Colorado 80751 or contact Jada Gettman at 970-522-1036 or P.O. Box 211, Merino, CO 80741.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water.

This notice is being sent to you by TOWN OF MERINO.  
Colorado Public Water System ID CO0138025  
Date Distributed: February 1, 2015