



**Ms. Margaret Talbott**  
**Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment**  
Water Quality Control Division  
Compliance Assurance Section / Drinking Water Enforcement Team  
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South  
Denver, Colorado 80246-1530  
Email: [margaret.talbott@state.co.us](mailto:margaret.talbott@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**

September 4, 2013

Dear Margaret:

Enclosed you will find the progress report due September 06, 2013 indicating the status of the system improvements project the Town of Merino is undertaking pursuant to Enforcement Order DC-090116-3, as amended.

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

ec: Russell Zigler, CDPHE  
Ken Salmon, Town of Merino Mayor  
Jada Gettman, Town of Merino  
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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**September 4, 2013**

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. Due to various reasons the funding schedule and the compliance schedule as amended February 3, 2012 have not been maintained and are to be adjusted.

During the past ninety (90) days:

- A revised Preliminary Engineering Report was submitted to CDPHE on behalf of the Town of Merino by Rocky Mountain Water Solutions (RMWS).
- A response to the revised PER by James H. Grice of CDPHE was received August 19, 2013 determining the new alternative will be exempt from licensing requirements for radioactive materials. There will be some testing prior to waste disposal required, and should follow the TENORM policy.
- A response to the revised PER by Michael Beck of CDPHE was received September 3, 2013 highlighting considerations including:
  - Additional regulations/permitting that may be needed as an industrial waste impoundment.
  - The Environmental Assessment will need revised and re-submitted.
  - A public meeting needs to be held to present this selected alternative to the public.
- The Town of Merino has continued to purchase and install water meters, and continues baseline data collection.

## **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 the most recent notice is attached as Exhibit A. The next notice will be made by September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

## Upcoming Activities

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

- The Town will evaluate and begin responding to the considerations in the two PER response letters.
- The Town will work with RMWS and CDPHE to identify available financial resources for the project.
- The Town will continue installation of initial water meters and recording/examination of meter readings.
- Further communication and follow-up with CDPHE will be made as needed.

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,



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 February 28, 2011 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 57 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+226:** 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 Carl R. Briggs at 19009 CR 24, 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: May 1, 2013