

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION 6 1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200 DALLAS, TEXAS 75202-2733

March 3, 2014

Mr. Bryan Sinclair, Director
Enforcement Division
Ms. Linda Brookins, Director
Water Supply Division
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, TX 78711-3087

Dear Mr. Sinclair and Ms. Brookins:

Enclosed is the January 2014 list of Texas public water systems with an Enforcement Targeting Tool (ETT) score greater than or equal to eleven (11) points. You may view the entire ETT list by going to the EPA's Online Tracking Information System (OTIS) database at http://www.epa-otis.gov/otis/sdwa_home.html. This list represents drinking water system violation and enforcement data through September 30, 2013. As indicated in the Enforcement Response Policy, any water system with a score ≥11 points is considered an enforcement priority requiring issuance of an appropriate formal enforcement action or a return to compliance within two calendar quarters of listing.

Facilities new to the list this quarter are highlighted in blue on the enclosed list. The State of Texas has three hundred and thirteen water systems, including two hundred and thirteen new systems, on the ETT list, which is 4.5 percent of your universe-the highest percentage in the nation. The number of violating systems in Texas is greater than each of the other nine EPA regions. Our regional goal is to have less than 1.0% of facilities with a score of 11 or greater. To be consistent with EPA's drinking water enforcement policy, issuance of an enforcement action or a return to compliance for these newly added facilities is required by June 30, 2014.

EPA will continue to work with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to bring about a significant reduction in the number of facilities on the ETT list. Please provide, in the "Comments" column of the enclosed list, a description of action(s) taken, or action(s) the TCEQ intends to take, to return these recently added facilities to compliance and submit the list with your comments to Mr. Mehdi Taheri (6EN-WR) at the address above, within thirty days of receipt of this letter.

I am specifically concerned with the number of facilities on the list that have unaddressed violations because they are exceeding the enforcement policy target of being addressed within two quarters. During our end-of-year enforcement meeting in January, my staff met with yours and identified many old violations that needed to be closed out. From subsequent meetings, I understand that this results from old violations that are in SDWIS Fed that are not in the State system. We will continue to work with you to remove these old violations from the system. This should result in a meaningful reduction of facilities on the federal ETT list.

Re: ETT Letter 2
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

I look forward to our continued relationship in ensuring the delivery of safe drinking water to Texas residents. If you have any questions concerning the ETT or other enforcement-related issues, please contact Mr. Mehdi Taheri, Texas Enforcement Coordinator, at (214) 665-2298.

Sincerely,

Associate Director

Water Enforcement Branch

Enclosure