U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
PUBLIC NOTICE
OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED COMPLIANCE ORDER, PENALTY COMPLAINT AND NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING AGAINST DEER MOUNTAIN FIRE DISTRICT #3 COTOPAXI FIRE AND RESCUE FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL REGULATIONS

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

The purpose of this notice is to solicit written comments on a Proposed Compliance Order, Penalty Complaint and Notice of Opportunity for Hearing (Complaint), Docket No. SDWA-08-2015-0025 that Region 8 of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposes to issue to Deer Mountain Fire District #3 Cotopaxi Fire and Rescue (Cotopaxi Fire and Rescue) for alleged violations at its facility located in Cotopaxi, Colorado. The Complaint alleges violations of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and the regulations detailing the requirements of the SDWA's Underground Injection Control (UIC) program. These regulations (Regulations) govern the injection of fluids that may endanger an underground source of drinking water (USDW). The Complaint proposes compliance requirements and monetary penalties for the alleged violations.

The EPA requests written comments from any interested party having knowledge of the alleged violations or who can provide any information useful to ensure that the Complaint is appropriate. The EPA will review and consider all comments received, and will thereafter determine whether to modify or withdraw the Complaint.

BACKGROUND

Part C of the SDWA (40 U.S.C. § 300h *et seq.*) requires the EPA to regulate underground injection of fluid through wells to assure that USDWs are not endangered. Section 1421 of the SDWA (40 U.S.C. § 300h) requires the EPA to administer UIC programs in States that do not have approved State UIC programs. Regulation of the UIC Class V Program has not been delegated to the State of Colorado; therefore, the EPA administers the program in accordance with title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (40 C.F.R.) parts 124, 144, 146, 147 and 148.

The Class V motor vehicle waste disposal well which is the subject of this Complaint, is located at 0060 County Road 50, Cotopaxi, Colorado. A Class V injection well, pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §§ 144.6 and 146.5, is a shallow injection well that injects fluids into or above a USDW.

The Complaint alleges that owner and/or operator, Cotopaxi Fire and Rescue, is in violation of the Regulations and is subject to appropriate penalties for operating a banned well, failing to prevent movement of fluids into a USDW that may cause a violation of a primary drinking water regulation

under 40 C.F.R. part 142, or otherwise potentially adversely affecting the health of persons. The Complaint cites that the EPA may assess an administrative civil penalty of up to $16,000 per day for each violation of the SDWA, up to a maximum of $187,500, and proposes certain compliance measures, including the permanent closure of the well.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Written comments on the Complaint are encouraged and will be accepted at the address listed below for a period of thirty (30) calendar days after the publication of this notice. Written comments submitted by the public as well as information submitted by Cotopaxi Fire and Rescue will be available for public review as part of the administrative record, subject to the provisions of law restricting the disclosure of confidential information. Cotopaxi Fire and Rescue may request a hearing. Any person submitting written comments will be notified of and has a right to participate in such a hearing. The Complaint and the administrative record are available for review between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at the address listed below. It is recommended that those wishing to view the administrative record call Mia Bearley, Enforcement Attorney, at (303) 312-6554 before visiting the EPA Region 8 offices. Please submit written comments to:

Tina Artemis (8RC)
Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. EPA, Region 8
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, Colorado 80202

Any person interested in receiving their own copy of this or any future public notice of a UIC administrative action can call Christopher Ajayi in the UIC program, at (303) 312-6320.

THE DECISION

The EPA will review and consider all public comments received on the public notice and will thereafter determine whether to modify or withdraw the Complaint. If the Complaint is revised, copies shall be provided to all parties and to all members of the public who have commented.

Arturo Palomares, Director
Water Technical Enforcement Program
Office of Enforcement, Compliance
and Environmental Justice
U.S. EPA, Region 8
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, CO 80202