



# U.S. EPA & Crow Tribe

## Public Health Information Sheet



This information sheet covers drinking water, sewer & trash utilities on the Crow Reservation

### Background

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Crow Tribe are working to resolve Crow utility noncompliance with federal drinking water and wastewater requirements, and solid waste (trash) endangerments. Ensuring that these utilities continuously operate safely is a top priority for all parties. Financial, operational, and managerial improvements are needed to ensure safe operation.

|                       | Public Health Concerns   | Actions Taken   |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| <b>Drinking Water</b> | <p>The Crow Agency, Pryor &amp; Wyola facilities failed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conduct required monitoring for pollutants;</li><li>• Ensure contaminants were below limits;</li><li>• Timely notify the public of all violations; and</li><li>• Employ enough staff for proper operations.</li></ul> <p>These failures increased the potential for drinking water to have contaminants above safe levels.</p>                                   | <p>The Crow Tribe has reported the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improving contaminant monitoring and reporting;</li><li>• Planning to repair systems used to monitor drinking water; and</li><li>• Hiring additional staff for facility operations.</li></ul>   |
| <b>Sewer</b>          | <p>The Crow Agency, Pryor &amp; Wyola facilities had:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Raw sewage overflows and backups;</li><li>• Discharges of raw and partially-treated sewage to the Little Bighorn River and Pryor Creek;</li><li>• Inadequate operation and maintenance; and</li><li>• Incomplete required monitoring and reporting.</li></ul> <p>Exposure to sewage can lead to diseases from mild stomach illnesses to life-threatening ailments.</p> | <p>The Crow Tribe has reported the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Obtaining the required discharge permit for the Crow Agency sewage treatment facility;</li><li>• Improving operation and maintenance at the facilities;</li><li>• Hiring additional operators for facility operations; and</li><li>• Improving required monitoring and reporting.</li></ul> |
| <b>Trash</b>          | <p>Tribal transfer stations have fallen into disrepair and trash builds up in and around them. Illegal open dumping and burning occurs on the Reservation.</p> <p>Inadequate operation of trash facilities can spread disease via pests and impact surface and ground water. Burning trash can cause air pollution and harm from inhaling the smoke.</p>   | <p>The Crow Tribe has reported the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contracting with Republic Services for trash removal;</li><li>• Ongoing repairs of some transfer stations;</li><li>• Ongoing cleaning of open dumps; and</li><li>• Developing a trash management program.</li></ul>   |

### Where Can I Find More Info?



### What's not Involved in These Actions?

- 1) Private residential drinking water wells or septic systems;
- 2) Drinking water or sewer services outside Crow Agency, Pryor, and Wyola; and
- 3) The Crow Tribe's water rights settlement with the Bureau of Reclamation.

### How Do I Report Concerns?

Residents should report concerns and possible environmental violations to the EPA at [Kardeman.Lianna@epa.gov](mailto:Kardeman.Lianna@epa.gov).

Anonymous reports can be submitted to: (800) 227-8917

Reports and comments will become part of the public record.