



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 8
999 18TH STREET - SUITE 300
DENVER, CO 80202-2466
Phone 800-227-8917
<http://www.epa.gov/region08>

Ref: 8ENF-UFO

CERTIFIED MAIL 7003-2260-0002-0331-7141
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

JUL 14 2005

Steven M. Johnson, Registered Agent
Provident Energy Associates of Montana L.L.C.
21 3rd Street North, 3rd Floor
Great Falls, Montana 59403

Re: UNDERGROUND INJECTION
CONTROL PROGRAM (UIC)
Proposed Order and Penalty Complaint
with Notice of Opportunity for Hearing

Dear Mr. Johnson:

The enclosed document is a Proposed Order and Penalty Complaint with Notice of Opportunity for Hearing ("complaint") for violations of the Safe Drinking Water Act ("SDWA"). Please have Provident Associates of Montana L.L.C. ("Provident") carefully read the complaint soon, since it describes Provident's rights and responsibilities in this matter as well as EPA's authority, the factual basis of the violations, and the background for the proposed penalties. Also enclosed is a copy of the Rules of Practice that govern these proceedings, the required Public Notice associated with this complaint and, in case Provident meets the criteria, an information sheet about the Small Business Regulatory Fairness Act.

Provident is required to take action within 30 calendar days of your receipt of this complaint to avoid the possibility of having a default judgment entered against Provident that could impose the penalty amount proposed in the complaint.

Whether or not Provident requests a hearing, we encourage an informal conference with EPA concerning the alleged violations in an effort to negotiate a settlement. Provident may wish to appear at an informal conference and/or be represented by legal counsel. To arrange for such a conference, Provident should contact Jim Eppers, Enforcement Attorney, Legal Enforcement Program, at the number provided below. Request for such a conference does not extend the 30 calendar day period during which a request for hearing must be submitted.

Public Notice of EPA's complaint and the opportunity to provide written comments on the complaint is being provided pursuant to section 1423 (c)(3)(B) of the SDWA, 42 U.S.C. § 300h-2(c)(3)(B). Should a hearing be held, any person who comments on the complaint has a right to participate in the hearing.

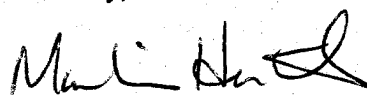
If Provident has technical questions relating to this matter, the person most knowledgeable on my staff is Nathan Wiser, UIC Enforcement Team, Technical Enforcement Program, at 1-800-227-8917 ext. 6211 or (303) 312-6211. For all legal questions, the person most knowledgeable on my staff is Jim Eppers at 1-800-227-8917 ext. 6893 or (303) 312-6893. Mr. Wiser and Mr. Eppers can also be reached at the following addresses:

Nathan Wiser (Mail Code 8ENF-UFO)
U.S. EPA Region 8
999 18th Street, Suite 300
Denver, Colorado 80202-2466, or

Jim Eppers (Mail Code 8ENF-L)
Enforcement Attorney
U.S. EPA Region 8
999 18th Street, Suite 300
Denver, Colorado 80202-2466.

We urge Provident's prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



for Carol Rushin
Assistant Regional Administrator
Office of Enforcement, Compliance
and Environmental Justice

Enclosures:

Proposed Order and Penalty Complaint with
Notice of Opportunity for Hearing
40 C.F.R. Part 22
Public Notice
U.S. EPA Small Business Resources Fact Sheet

cc: Gary L. Little (with all enclosures)
Provident Energy Associates of Montana LLC
2526 East 71st Street, Suite I
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74136

Gerald Wagner, Director of Environmental Program (with all enclosures)
Blackfeet Tribe
P.O. Box 2029
Browning, Montana 59417

1 UNITED STATES
2 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
3 REGION 8
4 Docket No. SDWA-08-2005-0041

2005 JUL 14 PM 12: 01

FILED
EPA REGION VIII
HEARING CLERK

5
6
7 In the Matter of:)
8)
9 Provident Energy Assoc. of Montana L.L.C.) **PROPOSED ORDER AND PENALTY**
10 a Montana corporation,) **COMPLAINT WITH NOTICE OF**
11 Respondent.) **OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING**

12
13 **INTRODUCTION**
14

- 15 1. This civil administrative enforcement action is authorized by Congress in section 1423(c)
16 of the Public Health Service Act, also known as the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA or
17 the Act). 42 § U.S.C. 300h-2(c). The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
18 regulations authorized by the statute are set out in part 144 of title 40 of the Code of
19 Federal Regulations (40 C.F.R.), and violations of the statute, permits or EPA regulations
20 constitute violations of the Act. The rules for this proceeding are the "Consolidated
21 Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties, Issuance
22 of Compliance or Corrective Action Orders and the Revocation, Termination or
23 Suspension of Permits ("Rules of Practice")," 40 C.F.R. part 22, a copy of which is
24 enclosed.
25
26 2. The undersigned EPA official has been properly delegated the authority to issue this
27 Proposed Order and Penalty Complaint with Notice of Opportunity for Hearing
28 (complaint).
29
30 3. EPA alleges that Provident Energy Associates of Montana L.L.C. (Respondent) has
31 violated the Act and proposes the assessment of a civil penalty and compliance measures,
32 as more fully explained below.
33

34 **NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING**
35

- 36 4. Respondent has the right to a public hearing before an administrative law judge to
37 disagree with any factual allegation made by EPA in the complaint or the appropriateness
38 of the proposed penalty, or to present the grounds for any legal defense it may have.
39
40
41
42

- 1 5. To disagree with the complaint and assert your right to a hearing, Respondent must file a
2 written answer (and one copy) with the Region 8 Hearing Clerk at the following address:

3
4 Region 8 Hearing Clerk
5 999 18th Street; Suite 300 (8RC)
6 Denver, Colorado 80202
7

8 within 30 calendar days of receiving this complaint. The answer must clearly admit, deny
9 or explain the factual allegations of the complaint, the grounds for any defense, the facts
10 you may dispute, and your specific request for a public hearing. Please see section 22.15
11 of the Rules of Practice for a complete description of what must be in the answer.

12 **FAILURE TO FILE AN ANSWER AND REQUEST FOR HEARING WITHIN 30**
13 **CALENDAR DAYS MAY WAIVE RESPONDENT'S RIGHT TO DISAGREE**
14 **WITH THE ALLEGATIONS OR PROPOSED PENALTY, AND RESULT IN A**
15 **DEFAULT JUDGMENT AND ASSESSMENT OF THE PENALTY PROPOSED**
16 **IN THE COMPLAINT, OR UP TO THE MAXIMUM AUTHORIZED BY THE**
17 **ACT.**

18 19 QUICK RESOLUTION

- 20
21 6. Respondent may resolve this proceeding at any time by plugging the well referenced in
22 paragraph 10 and paying the penalty amount proposed in the complaint. Such action to
23 make payment need not contain any response to, or admission of, the allegations in the
24 complaint. Such action to make payment constitutes a waiver of Respondent's right to
25 contest the allegations and to appeal the final order. See section 22.18 of the Rules of
26 Practice for a full explanation of the quick resolution process.

27 28 SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS

- 29
30 7. EPA encourages discussing whether cases can be settled through informal settlement
31 conferences. If you want to pursue the possibility of settling this matter, or have any
32 other questions, contact Jim Eppers, Senior Enforcement Attorney, at [1-800-227-8917 ;
33 extension 6893 or 303-312-6893] or at the address identified in paragraph 22 herein.
34 **Please note that calling Mr. Eppers or requesting a settlement conference does NOT**
35 **delay the running of the 30 day period for filing an answer and requesting a**
36 **hearing.**

37 38 GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

39
40 The following general allegations apply to all times relevant to this action, and to each
41 count of this complaint:
42

- 1 8. Pursuant to section 1422 of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300h-1, and 40 C.F.R. part 147 subpart
2 BB, section 147.1351, EPA administers the Underground Injection Control (UIC)
3 program for Class II wells in Indian Country within the State of Montana. The effective
4 date of the program is June 25, 1984. The program requirements are located at
5 40 C.F.R. parts 124, 144, 146, 147, and 148.
6
- 7 9. The two Class II salt water disposal wells subject to this action were both permitted by
8 EPA initially on November 6, 1986. These permits were transferred to Respondent
9 effective on December 15, 1997. The "5993" well bears EPA permit number MT20339-
10 00678, and is located in Pondera County, Montana, in the southwest quarter of the
11 northeast quarter of Section 10 in Township 31 North, Range 6 West. The "5991" well
12 bears EPA permit number MT20338-00677, and is located in Pondera County, Montana,
13 in the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 34 in Township 32 North,
14 Range 6 West. Both wells are owned and/or operated by Respondent and are located
15 within the exterior boundary of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation.
16
- 17 10. The 5993 Class II injection well has not been used for injection since at least October 31,
18 2002. After two years' cessation of injection activities, the permit at part II(E)(3) requires
19 the injection well owner or operator to plug the well unless the owner or operator
20 provides notice to the EPA, demonstrates the well will be used in the future, and
21 demonstrates that the well will not endanger underground sources of drinking water
22 during the temporary abandonment period. A successful mechanical integrity
23 demonstration is acceptable as a non-endangerment demonstration. The well's
24 mechanical integrity was successfully demonstrated on August 14, 2001, and on April 29,
25 2005. No demonstration of the well's future use has been provided to EPA during the
26 period of temporary abandonment. During the period after ceasing injection for two years
27 until the present, Respondent has been in violation of the requirement to plug and
28 abandon the well. The duration of this violation is from November 1, 2004 to the present.
29 See Attachment A to this complaint where this violation is summarized and labeled with
30 the letter "A."
31
- 32 11. The permits for both wells 5991 and 5993 at parts II(D)(1)(a)(i) and II(D)(4), as amended,
33 require the Respondent to annually submit a fluid analysis, representative of the injected
34 fluid each year, and analyzed for total dissolved solids, major ions, pH, specific gravity
35 and specific conductivity by February 15 of each year following the reporting period.
36 From annually submitted monitoring data, the Respondent has demonstrated that, during
37 the past five years, the 5993 well was used for injection in 2000, 2001, and 2002, while
38 the 5991 well was used for injection in 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004. By February
39 15 of each year following these calendar years, Respondent was required to submit an
40 analysis representative of each well's injected fluid that year, analyzed for the afore-
41 mentioned parameters. Respondent failed to timely submit such fluid analyses as
42 follows, for 5991 well: a representative sample of fluid injected in 2000, 2001, 2002,
43 2003, and 2004; and for the 5993 well: a representative sample of fluid injected in 2000,

- 1
2 12. Each year over the past five reporting years, EPA has sent Respondent courtesy reminders
3 of annual reporting requirements in advance of the February 15 deadline. Specifically,
4 EPA sent such reminders in letters dated December 19, 2000 (in advance of the February
5 15, 2001 deadline), January 18, 2002 (in advance of the February 15, 2002 deadline),
6 January 16, 2003 (in advance of the February 15, 2003 deadline), January 14, 2004 (in
7 advance of the February 15, 2004 deadline), and January 7, 2005 (in advance of the
8 February 15, 2005 deadline).
9
10 13. EPA sent Respondent notices of violation regarding the fluid analysis requirement in
11 letters dated March 2, 2004, and April 8, 2005.
12
13 14. The Respondent, Provident Energy Associates of Montana L.L.C., as of December 15,
14 1997, and to the present, is a corporation organized in the State of Montana and is
15 authorized to do business in the State of Montana.
16
17 15. Respondent is a "person" within the meaning of Section 1401(12) of the Act,
18 42 U.S.C. § 300f(12).
19
20 16. The wells penetrate underground sources of drinking water (USDWs), including but not
21 limited to groundwater in, the Two Medicine Formation at approximately 200 feet below
22 surface, the Virgelle Formation at approximately 900 feet below surface, the Kootenai
23 Formation at approximately 2630 feet below surface, and the Swift Formation at
24 approximately 3225 feet below surface.
25
26 17. A summary list of the violations alleged is included as Attachment A to this complaint.

27
28 **COUNT 1**
29

- 30 18. Respondent is in violation UIC permit number MT20339-00678 at part II(E)(3) for failing
31 to plug and abandon the 5993 well after two year's cessation of injection. The duration of
32 the Respondent's violation is from October 31, 2004 to the present.
33

34 **COUNT 2**
35

- 36 19. Respondent is in violation of UIC permit numbers MT20339-00678 and MT20338-00677
37 at parts II(D)(1)(a)(i) and II(D)(4) for failure to sample at least annually and analyze the
38 injected fluid for total dissolved solids, major ions, pH, specific gravity and specific
39 conductivity. The permits stipulate that such sample results shall be representative of the
40 injection fluid and shall be submitted to EPA by February 15 of each year following the
41 reporting year. Since the 5991 well has been in use each year since 2000 and the 5993

1 well was in use each year from 2000 to 2002, this requirement applied. The duration of
2 Respondent's violations for failure to submit fluid analyses from each well is described in
3 Attachment A.
4

5 6 **PROPOSED ORDER WITH ADMINISTRATIVE CIVIL PENALTY**

- 7
- 8 20. For violations of the Act that occurred prior to March 16, 2004, the Act, as amended,
9 authorizes the assessment of a civil penalty of up to \$27,500.00 per day. For violations of
10 the Act that occurred on or after March 16, 2004, the Act, as amended, authorizes the
11 assessment of a civil penalty of up to \$32,500.00 per day, 42 U.S.C. § 300h-2(b). The
12 Act requires EPA to take into account the following factors in assessing a civil penalty:
13 the nature, circumstances, extent and gravity of the violations; any economic benefit or
14 savings gained resulting from the violations; Respondent's history of such violations;
15 Respondent's culpability for the violations; Respondent's good-faith efforts to comply
16 with applicable requirements; the economic impact of the penalty on the Respondent; and
17 other factors that justice may require. 42 U.S.C. § 300h-2(c)(4)(B).
18
- 19 21. In light of the statutory factors and the specific facts of this case, **EPA proposes that the**
20 **Respondent be ordered to plug and abandon the 5993 well and pay a penalty of**
21 **\$11,777 (eleven thousand seven hundred seventy-seven dollars) for the violations**
22 **alleged above, as explained below:**

23 24 Nature, Circumstances, Extent, and Gravity of Violations

25
26 Respondent has the ability and means to comply by plugging and abandoning the well in
27 a manner to prevent movement of fluids to a USDW that may endanger the health of
28 persons. Respondent, as owner and/or operator had, and continues to have, access to
29 these wells. Not plugging a temporarily abandoned well is serious violation because such
30 wells are not as rigorously inspected and maintained by the operator, and can therefore
31 fall into disrepair without the knowledge of the operator, posing an increased risk to
32 USDWs.
33

34 Prior Compliance History

35
36 This complaint is the first enforcement action EPA Region 8 has issued to Respondent
37 requiring compliance with the applicable UIC regulations.
38

39 Good-Faith Efforts to Comply

40
41 As far as EPA can tell, Respondent made no effort to plug and abandon this well during
42 the timeframe it was required. Also, Respondent made no effort to collect and analyze
43 samples of the injected fluid until EPA reminded Respondent of this duty in notices of

1 violation dated March 2, 2004, and April 8, 2005, despite the fact that EPA sent courtesy
2 reminder letters to Respondent each year in advance of the annual reporting deadline.

3
4 Degree of Culpability

5
6 Respondent should have been aware of all UIC requirements when it applied for and
7 received EPA's transfer of ownership of the well permits on or about December 15, 1997.

8
9 Economic Benefit

10
11 An economic benefit was experienced by Respondent for its failure to plug and abandon
12 the 5993 well, and by failing to timely collect, analyze and report fluid analyses. The
13 delayed cost of compliance is estimated to be \$887.00.

14
15 Ability to Pay

16
17 EPA did not reduce the proposed penalty due to this factor, but will consider any new
18 information Respondent may present regarding Respondent's ability to pay the penalty
19 proposed in this complaint.

20
21 Other Matters that Justice may Require

22
23 No adjustments made regarding these factors at this time.

- 24
25 22. Respondent's payment of the penalty shall be made by money order or certified check
26 made payable to "Treasurer, United States of America" and mailed to the following
27 address:

28 EPA - Region 8
29 Regional Hearing Clerk
30 P.O. Box 360859
31 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15251.

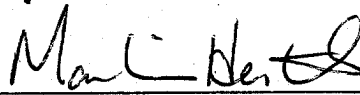
32
33 A copy of said check shall be mailed to the following address:

34
35 Jim Eppers (8ENF-L)
36 Enforcement Attorney
37 U.S. EPA - Region 8
38 999 18th Street, Suite 300
39 Denver, Colorado 80202-2466.

- 40
41 23. The provisions of this complaint shall apply to and be binding upon Respondent, its
42 officers, directors, agents, servants, employees, and successors or assigns.

- 1 24. As required by the Act, prior to the assessment of a civil penalty, EPA will provide public
2 notice of the proposed penalty, and reasonable opportunity for people to comment on the
3 matter, and present evidence in the event a hearing is held. 42 U.S.C. § 300h-2(c)(3)(B).
4
- 5 25. The administrative law judge is not bound by EPA's penalty policy or the penalty
6 proposed by EPA, and may assess a penalty above the proposed amount, up to either
7 \$27,500.00 or \$32,500.00, per day for each violation, as authorized in the statute, as
8 amended.
9
- 10 26. This complaint does not constitute a waiver, suspension, or modification of the
11 requirements of any applicable provision of the Act or the UIC regulations implementing
12 the Act, which remain in full force and effect. Issuance of this complaint is not an
13 election by the EPA to forego any civil or any criminal action otherwise authorized under
14 the Act.
15

16
17 Issued this Kth day of July, 2005.

18
19
20 
21 for Carol Rushin
22 Assistant Regional Administrator
23 Office of Enforcement, Compliance,
24 and Environmental Justice
25 U.S. EPA, Region 8
26 999 18th Street, Suite 300
27 Denver, CO 80202-2466

ATTACHMENT A

	Provident Energy Associates of Montana, LLC				
EPA ID No.	Type of Violation	Date Violation Began	Date Violation Ended (estimated)	Violation duration in days	Violation duration in months
MT20338-00678 (5993)	A. Failure to Plug & Abandon	11/01/2004	09/01/2005	304	10
<p>Note that this date is estimated by EPA. As of the date of this complaint, this is an on-going violation</p>					
EPA ID No.	Type of Violation	Date Violation Began	Date Violation Ended	Violation duration in days	Violation duration in months
MT20338-00678 (5993)	B. No Timely Fluid Analysis	02/15/2001	02/15/2002	365	12
MT20338-00678 (5993)	B. No Timely Fluid Analysis	02/15/2002	02/15/2003	365	12
MT20338-00678 (5993)	B. No Timely Fluid Analysis	02/15/2003	08/13/2003	179	6
MT20339-00677 (5991)	B. No Timely Fluid Analysis	02/15/2001	02/15/2002	365	12
MT20339-00677 (5991)	B. No Timely Fluid Analysis	02/15/2002	02/15/2003	365	12
MT20339-00677 (5991)	B. No Timely Fluid Analysis	02/15/2003	08/13/2003	179	6
MT20339-00677 (5991)	B. No Timely Fluid Analysis	02/15/2004	06/21/2004	127	4
MT20339-00677 (5991)	B. No Timely Fluid Analysis	02/15/2005	05/10/2005	84	3

Provident Energy Associates of Montana L.L.C.
Docket No. SDWA-08-2005-00

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the original and one true copy of this Proposed Order and Penalty Complaint with Notice of Opportunity for Hearing were hand carried to the Regional Hearing Clerk, EPA Region 8, 999 18th Street, Denver, Colorado, and that a true copy was sent Certified Mail; Return Receipt Requested to:

Steven M. Johnson, Registered Agent
Provident Energy Associates of Montana L.L.C.
21 3rd Street North, 3rd Floor
Great Falls, Montana 59403.

Dated: 7/14/05

By: Judith McTernan
Judith McTernan

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
PUBLIC NOTICE
OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON
PROPOSED ORDER AND PENALTY COMPLAINT
WITH NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING
AGAINST
PROVIDENT ENERGY ASSOCIATES OF MONTANA L.L.C.
FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH
UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL REGULATIONS**

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

The purpose of this notice is to solicit written comments on an Proposed Order and Penalty Complaint with Notice of Opportunity for Hearing (complaint) [Docket No. **SDWA-08-2005-0041**] that Region 8 of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposes to issue against Provident Energy Associates of Montana L.L.C., whose managing office is located at 2526 East 71st Street, Suite I, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74136. The complaint alleges violations of the Underground Injection Control (UIC) regulations and proposes remedies and monetary penalties for the alleged violations. The complaint is issued under the UIC provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and the Act's implementing regulations. These regulations govern the injection of fluids that may endanger an underground source of drinking water (USDW).

The EPA desires to receive written comments from any interested party having knowledge of the alleged violations or who can provide any information useful to ensure that the proposed remedies and penalties are appropriate. EPA will review any comments received on the complaint, and will thereafter determine whether to modify or withdraw the complaint or whether to modify the proposed penalty and/or compliance requirements.

BACKGROUND

Part C of the SDWA requires the EPA to regulate underground injection of fluid through wells to assure that USDWs are not endangered. Section 1421 of the SDWA requires EPA to administer UIC programs in States or on Indian Lands that do not have approved State UIC programs. Regulation of the UIC Class II Program has not been delegated to the Blackfoot Tribe; therefore, 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 II injection wells which are the subject of this complaint, are owned and operated by Provident Energy Associates of Montana L.L.C., and are located in the Two Medicine Oil Field, Pondera County, Section 10 of Township 31 North, Range 6 West and Section 34, Township 32 North, Range 6 West. A Class II injection well, pursuant to 40 C.F.R. 144.6 and 146.5, is a well that injects fluids (a) brought to the surface in connection with natural

gas storage operations, or conventional oil or natural gas production, (b) for enhanced recovery of oil or natural gas, or (c) for the storage of hydrocarbons which are liquid at standard pressure and temperature. The wells subject to this complaint are salt water disposal wells, injecting into the Madison Formation for the purpose of disposing of salt water from nearby oil production wells. These wells are located within the exterior boundary of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation.

The complaint alleges that Provident Energy Associates of Montana L.L.C. is in violation of UIC regulations and is subject to appropriate penalties for failing to plug and abandon this well after injection activities ceased for more than two years and for failing to timely submit required analyses of the injected fluid. The complaint proposes that EPA assess an administrative civil penalty in the amount eleven thousand seven hundred seventy-seven dollars (\$11,777.00) and that Provident plug and abandon one of the two wells.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Written comments on the complaint are encouraged and will be accepted at the address listed below for a period of thirty (30) days after the publication of this notice. Written comments submitted by the public as well as information submitted by Provident Energy Associates of Montana L.L.C. will be available for public review as part of the administrative record, subject to the provisions of law restricting the disclosure of confidential information. Provident Energy Associates of Montana L.L.C. 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 James H. Eppers, Enforcement Attorney, Legal Enforcement Program, EPA Region 8, at (303) 312-6893 before visiting the EPA Region 8 offices.

Please submit written comments to:

Tina Artemis (8RC)
Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. EPA, Region 8
999 18th Street, Suite 500
Denver, Colorado 80202-2466.

A copy of the complaint will also be available for public review Monday 2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. and Tuesday through Friday 11:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. at the Browning Public Library, located at 9 Second Avenue NW, Browning, Montana 59417. About a week after EPA sends its complaint to Provident, the complaint can also be viewed on the following EPA webpage: www.epa.gov/Region08/compliance/rhc.html.

Any person interested in receiving their own copy of this or any future public notice of a UIC administrative action can call Nathan Wisner in the UIC program, EPA Region 8, at (303) 312-6211.

THE DECISION

EPA will review and consider all public comments received on the complaint and will thereafter determine whether to modify or withdraw the complaint or whether to modify the proposed penalty and/or compliance requirements. If the complaint is revised, copies shall be provided to all parties and to all members of the public who have commented.

Date of Publication

Elisabeth Evans

Elisabeth Evans, Director
Technical Enforcement Program
Office of Enforcement, Compliance, and
Environmental Justice
U.S. EPA, Region 8
999 18th Street, Suite 300
Denver, CO 80202-3466

Friday
July 23, 1999

Federal Register

Part V

Environmental Protection Agency

40 CFR Part 22

**Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing
the Administrative Assessment of Civil
Penalties, Issuance of Compliance or
Corrective Action Orders, and the
Revocation, Termination or Suspension of
Permits; Final Rule**



U. S. EPA Small Business Resources

If you own a small business, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) offers a variety of compliance assistance and tools to assist you in complying with federal and state environmental laws. These resources can help you understand your environmental obligations, improve compliance and find cost-effective ways to comply through the use of pollution prevention and other innovative technologies.

Hotlines, Helplines and Clearinghouses

EPA sponsors approximately 89 free hotlines and clearinghouses that provide convenient assistance regarding environmental requirements.

The National Environmental Compliance Assistance Clearinghouse provides quick access to compliance assistance tools, contacts, and planned activities from the U.S. EPA, states, and other compliance assistance providers: <http://www.epa.gov/clearinghouse>

Pollution Prevention Clearinghouse
<http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/library/ppicindex.htm>

EPA's Small Business Ombudsman Hotline can provide a list of all the hot lines and assist in determining the hotline best meeting your needs:
(800) 368-5888

Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act
(800) 424-9346

National Response Center (to report oil and hazardous substance spills)
(800) 424-8802

Toxics Substances and Asbestos Information
(202) 554-1404

Safe Drinking Water
(800) 426-4791

Stratospheric Ozone and Refrigerants Information
(800) 296-1996

Clean Air Technology Center
(919) 541-0800

Wetlands Helpline
(800) 832-7828

EPA Websites

EPA has several Internet sites that provide useful compliance assistance information and materials for small businesses. If you don't have access to the Internet at your business, many public libraries provide access to the Internet at minimal or no cost.

EPA's Home Page
<http://www.epa.gov>

Small Business Assistance Program
<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/sbap>

Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance
<http://www.epa.gov/compliance>

Compliance Assistance Home Page
<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/assistance>

Office of Regulatory Enforcement
<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/civil/index.html>

Office of Site Remediation Enforcement
<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/cleanup>

Innovative Programs for Environmental Performance
<http://www.epa.gov/partners>

Small Business Ombudsman
www.sba.gov/ombudsman

