Jon Niermann, *Chairman*Emily Lindley, *Commissioner*Bobby Janecka, *Commissioner*Toby Baker, *Executive Director*



TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

December 2, 2021

Via Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested

Article Number 7021 0350 0000 4630 5538 Odis Lowe, Registered Agent RCH WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION 5763 SH 205 South Rockwall, Texas 75032

Article Number 7021 0350 0000 4630 6351 Jack Pullen, President RCH WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION P.O. Box 2034 Rockwall, Texas 75087-4434

Re: RCH WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION; RN102689635;

TCEQ Docket No. 2021-0601-PWS-E

Dear Messrs. Lowe and Pullen:

The Executive Director of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ("Commission" or "TCEQ") is pursuing an enforcement action against you for violations of state statutes and Commission Rules. Enclosed is a copy of the "Executive Director's Preliminary Report and Petition Recommending that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Enter an Enforcement Order Assessing an Administrative Penalty Against and Requiring Certain Actions of RCH WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION" (the "EDPRP"), which was filed today with the Chief Clerk of the TCEO.

You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the Chief Clerk of the TCEQ within twenty days after you receive this notice and petition, and/or fail to settle this matter by entering into an Agreed Order, the Commission may issue a default order against you. If a default order is issued, you will be required to pay the assessed penalty and complete any corrective actions recommended by the Executive Director.

YOUR FAILURE TO ACCEPT OR PICK UP CERTIFIED MAIL WILL NOT RELIEVE YOU OF YOUR RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS MATTER.

To request a hearing, send a written hearing request referencing TCEQ Docket No. 2021-0601-PWS-E to the persons listed below via e-mail, regular mail, fax, or e-filing:

Laurie Gharis, Chief Clerk Office of the Chief Clerk Texas Commission on Environmental Quality P.O. Box 13087, MC 105 Austin, Texas 78711-3087 (512) 239-3311 (fax) https://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eFiling/

P.O. Box 13087 · Austin, Texas 78711-3087 · 512-239-1000 · tceq.texas.gov

and:

Judy Bohr, Staff Attorney

Office of Legal Services, Litigation

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

P.O. Box 13087, MC 175 Austin, Texas 78711-3087 (512) 239-3434 (fax) Judy.Bohr@tceq.texas.gov

and:

Garrett Arthur, Staff Attorney Office of Public Interest Counsel

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

P.O. Box 13087, MC 103 Austin, Texas 78711-3087 (512) 239-6377 (fax)

garrett.arthur@tceq.texas.gov

To e-file your hearing request, go to https://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eFiling/ and follow the on-screen instructions. Hearing requests are due to the Chief Clerk by 5:00 p.m. CST on or before the 20-day deadline date referenced above. Hearing requests filed via e-filing must be in either Microsoft Word or Adobe Acrobat (pdf) format.

All or a portion of the recommended administrative penalty may be offset through the completion of or payment to a Supplemental Environmental Project ("SEP"), which directs all or a portion of your administrative penalty toward projects aimed at improving the environment. For further information on contributing to a SEP, please visit our website at https://www.tceq.texas.gov/compliance/enforcement/sep.

For further information concerning the enforcement process, contact the TCEQ Office of Public Interest Counsel at (512) 239-6363. For information concerning compliance assistance, contact the TCEQ Environmental Assistance Division at (800) 447-2827.

If you have any questions or would like to schedule a meeting to discuss settlement, payment plan options, or contribution to a SEP, please contact me at (512) 239-3400 or at my e-mail address listed below. I look forward to cooperatively resolving this matter with you.

Sincerely,

Judy Bohr, Staff Attorney

Office of Legal Services, Litigation

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Judy.Bohr@tceq.texas.gov

Enclosure

cc:

Ecko Beggs, Enforcement
Brent Candler, Dallas/Fort Worth Regional Office
Garrett Arthur, TCEQ Office of Public Interest Counsel
Art Rodriguez, Attorney for Respondent, Russell, Rodriguez, Hyde & Bullock, LLP
arodriguez@txlocalgovlaw.com

TCEQ DOCKET NO. 2021-0601-PWS-E

IN THE MATTER OF \$ BEFORE THE
AN ENFORCEMENT ACTION \$
AGAINST \$ TEXAS COMMISSION ON
RCH WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION; \$
RN102689635 \$ ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S PRELIMINARY REPORT AND PETITION RECOMMENDING THAT

THE TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
ENTER AN ENFORCEMENT ORDER ASSESSING AN ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY AGAINST
AND REQUIRING CERTAIN ACTIONS OF
RCH WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION

INTRODUCTION

- 1. The Executive Director of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ("Commission" or "TCEQ"), by and through a representative of the Litigation Division, hereby issues this Preliminary Report and Petition pursuant to Tex. Health & Safety Code ch. 341 and 30 Tex. Admin. Code chs. 70 and 290. Discovery related to this matter is intended to be conducted under Level 3 pursuant to Tex. R. Civ. P. 190.
- 2. RCH WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION ("Respondent") is subject to the enforcement authority of the Commission pursuant to Tex. Water Code § 7.002 and Tex. Health & Safety Code § 341.049 because the violations alleged herein are within the Commission's general jurisdiction, pursuant to Tex. Water Code § 5.013, as they involve violations of the state's public water supply program.
- 3. The Executive Director has come to the conclusion that Respondent violated 30 Tex. Admin. Code § 290.44(h)(1)(A). The Executive Director recommends that the Commission enter an order assessing an administrative penalty against Respondent in the amount of three thousand one hundred fifty dollars (\$3,150.00). Further, the Executive Director recommends that the Commission order Respondent to undertake such actions as are necessary to bring operations into compliance with the Texas Health and Safety Code and TCEQ rules.
- 4. Effective September 1, 2006, the TCEQ does not issue, amend, or renew permits, registrations, certifications, or licenses to an entity or person if any delinquent penalties or delinquent fees are associated with that entity's/person's 9-digit TCEQ Customer Number (CN), regardless of media and/or facility location.

FACTS SUPPORTING VIOLATIONS

- 5. Respondent owns and operates a public water supply located approximately 0.25 mile south of State Highway 205 on Lofland Circle in Rockwall, Rockwall County, Texas (the "Facility"). The Facility provides water for human consumption, has approximately 2,289 service connections, and serves at least 25 people per day for at least 60 days per year. As such, the Facility is a public water system as defined in 30 Tex. ADMIN. CODE § 290.38(71).
- 6. During an investigation conducted on March 12, 2021, an investigator documented that Respondent failed to to ensure additional protection was provided at all residences or establishments where an actual or potential contamination hazard exists in the form of an air gap or backflow prevention assembly ("BPA"), as identified in 30 Tex. ADMIN. CODE § 290.47(f), in violation of 30 Tex. ADMIN. CODE § 290.44(h)(1)(A). Specifically,

Executive Director's Preliminary Report and Petition RCH WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION TCEQ Docket No. 2021-0601-PWS-E Page 2

Respondent did not ensure that additional protection was provided at connections served by on-site sewage facilities where irrigation systems were installed.

IMPOSITION OF PENALTY

7. Based on the facts supporting the violations, the Executive Director recommends that an administrative penalty be imposed pursuant to Tex. Health & Safety Code § 341.049. The Commission has the authority to assess an administrative penalty up to \$5,000.00 for each day of each violation under Tex. Health & Safety Code § 341.049.

AMOUNT OF PENALTY

- 8. In determining the amount of the penalty, the Commission is required by Tex. Health & Safety Code § 341.049 to consider:
 - a. The nature of the circumstances and the extent, duration and gravity of the prohibited acts or omissions;
 - b. With respect to the alleged violator:
 - i. the history and extent of previous violations;
 - ii. the degree of culpability, including whether the violation was attributable to mechanical or electrical failures and whether the violation could have been reasonably anticipated and avoided;
 - iii. the person's demonstrated good faith, including actions taken by the person to correct the cause of the violation;
 - iv. any economic benefit gained through the violation; and
 - v. the amount necessary to deter future violations; and
 - c. Any other matters that justice may require.
- 9. Based on the facts supporting the violations, and having considered the above-described factors, the Executive Director recommends that Respondent be required to pay an administrative penalty in the amount of three thousand one hundred fifty dollars (\$3,150.00).
- 10. The penalty calculation worksheet ("PCW") for the recommended administrative penalty is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference ("Attachment A"). The PCW sets forth each alleged violation and the statutory factors the Executive Director considered in determining the recommended administrative penalty.
- 11. The Executive Director followed an established Penalty Policy approved by the Commission in calculating the penalty in this enforcement action. *See* Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Penalty Policy (January 28, 2021).

CORRECTIVE ACTION ORDERING PROVISIONS

- 12. Pursuant to Tex. Health & Safety Code ch. 341, the Commission shall ensure that public drinking water supply systems supply safe drinking water and are technically sound.
- 13. The Executive Director recommends that Respondent be required to implement the following corrective measures:
 - a. Within 30 days after the effective date of this Order, ensure that a proper BPA or air gap is provided at all locations where an actual or potential contamination hazard exists, including but not limited to a reduced pressure principle backflow

Executive Director's Preliminary Report and Petition RCH WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION TCEQ Docket No. 2021-0601-PWS-E Page 3

prevention assembly at connections served by on-site sewage facilities where irrigation systems were installed, in accordance with 30 Tex. Admin. Code § 290.44.

b. Within 45 days after the effective date of this Order, submit written certification, and include detailed supporting documentation including photographs, receipts, and/or other records to demonstrate compliance with Ordering Provision No. 13.a. The certification shall be signed by Respondent and shall include the following certification language:

"I certify under penalty of law that I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted and all attached documents, and that based on my inquiry of those individuals immediately responsible for obtaining the information, I believe that the submitted information is true, accurate and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations."

Respondent shall submit the written certification and copies of documentation necessary to demonstrate compliance with these Corrective Action Ordering Provisions to:

Order Compliance Team Enforcement Division, MC 149A Texas Commission on Environmental Quality P.O. Box 13087 Austin, Texas 78711-3087

and:

Water Section Manager Dallas/Fort Worth Regional Office Texas Commission on Environmental Quality 2309 Gravel Drive Fort Worth, Texas 76118-6951

RESPONDENT'S RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

14. According to Tex. Health & Safety Code § 341.049 and the TCEQ's procedural rules, Respondent has a right to a hearing on the occurrence of the violations, the amount of the proposed penalty, or both. To preserve this right to a hearing, within 20 days after the day Respondent receives this Preliminary Report and Petition, Respondent must submit a written response to the Executive Director in accordance with Tex. Health & Safety Code § 341.049 and 30 Tex. Admin. Code § 70.105(a).

Executive Director's Preliminary Report and Petition RCH WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION TCEQ Docket No. 2021-0601-PWS-E Page 4

PRAYER

15. ACCORDINGLY, the Executive Director respectfully requests that the Commission enter an order, pursuant to Tex. Health & Safety Code ch. 341, assessing a penalty and granting other relief as requested above, together with any other relief the Commission finds appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Toby Baker Executive Director

Erin E. Chancellor, Director Office of Legal Services

Charmaine K. Backens, Deputy Director Litigation Division

by ______ Judy Bohr

State Bar of Texas No. 24092153 TCEQ Office of Legal Services Litigation Division, MC 175 P.O. Box 13087 Austin, Texas 78711-3087 (512) 239-3400

(512) 239-3434 (FAX) Judy.Bohr@tceq.texas.gov

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 2nd day of December, 2021, the original of the foregoing "Executive Director's Preliminary Report and Petition Recommending that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Enter an Enforcement Order Assessing an Administrative Penalty Against and Requiring Certain Actions of RCH WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION" ("EDPRP") was filed with the Chief Clerk, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Austin, Texas.

I further certify that on this day a true and correct copy of the foregoing EDPRP was mailed via Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, postage prepaid, to:

Odis Lowe 5763 SH 205 South Rockwall, Texas 75032 Article Number 7021 0350 0000 4630 5538

Jack Pullen P.O. Box 2034 Rockwall, Texas 75087-4434 Article Number 7021 0350 0000 4630 6351

I further certify that on this day a true and correct copy of the foregoing EDPRP was mailed via electronic mail to:

Art Rodriguez
Attorney for Respondent
Russell, Rodriguez, Hyde & Bullock, LLP
arodriguez@txlocalgovlaw.com

I further certify that on this day a true and correct copy of the foregoing EDPRP was electronically delivered to Garrett Arthur, TCEQ Office of Public Interest Counsel, at garrett.arthur@tceq.texas.gov.

Judy Bohr, Staff Attorney

Office of Legal Services, Litigation

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

ATTACHMENT A
PENALTY CALCULATION WORKSHEET



Penalty Calculation Worksheet (PCW)

Policy Revision 5 (January 28, 2021) PCW Revision February 11, 2021

DATES Assigned 26-Apr-2021

PCW 1-Sep-2021 Screening 28-Apr-2021 EPA Due

RESPONDENT/FACILITY INFORMATION
Respondent
Reg. Ent. Ref. No.
Facility/Site Region

A-Dallas/Fort Worth

RESPONDENT/FACILITY INFORMATION
Respondent
RCH WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION
RN102689635

Facility/Site Region

Major/Minor Source Major

CASE INFORMATION

Enf./Case ID No. 60689
Docket No. 2021-0601-PWS-E
Media Program(s) Public Water Supply
Multi-Media

Admin. Penalty \$ Limit Minimum \$50 Maximum

No. of Violations 1
Order Type 1660
Government/Non-Profit Enf. Coordinator EC's Team Enforcement Team 2

			Penalty (Calcula	tion Section	on		
TOTA	L BASE PENA	LTY (Sum o	f violation bas	e penal	ties)		Subtotal 1	\$3,000
ADJU	STMENTS (+	/-) TO SUBT	OTAL 1					
7,250	Subtotals 2-7 are of	otained by multiplyin	g the Total Base Penalt	y (Subtotal 1) by the indicated p	ercentage.		
	Compliance Hi	story		5.0%	Adjustment	Subt	otals 2, 3, & 7	\$150
	Notes	Enhance	ment for one NOV	with the sa	ame/similar viola	ations		
	Notes							
	Culpability	No		0.0%	Enhancement		Subtotal 4	\$0
	Nahaa	The D	anondont door no	t most the	oulpability onite	win		
	Notes	The Re	espondent does no					
	Cood Foith Fff	ant to Camania	Takal Adimakusan	-			Cubbatal 5	#0
	Good Faith Em	ort to Comply	Total Adjustment	S			Subtotal 5	\$0
	Economic Ben	ofit		0.00/-	Enhancement*		Subtotal 6	\$0
		Total EB Amounts			d at the Total EB \$ A	Amount	Subtotal	40
	Estimated	Cost of Compliance	\$1,000					
SUM (OF SUBTOTA	LS 1-7					Final Subtotal	\$3,150
	R FACTORS A or enhances the Final		MAY REQUIRE		0.0%		Adjustment	\$0
Reduces	or emanees the rina	Subtotal by the ma	catea percentage.					
	Notes							
						Final Pe	nalty Amount	\$3,150
							.,	. ,
STAT	UTORY LIMIT	T ADJUSTME	NT			Final Ass	essed Penalty	\$3,150
DEFE	RRAL				0.0%	Reduction	Adjustment	\$0
Reduces	the Final Assessed Pe	nalty by the indicate	ed percentage.		•			
	Defended as the second few and secon							
Notes Deferral not offered for non-expedited settlement.								
PAYA	BLE PENALT	Υ						\$3,150

Policy Revision 5 (January 28, 2021) PCW Revision February 11, 2021

Respondent RCH WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION

Case ID No. 60689

Reg. Ent. Reference No. RN102689635

Media Public Water Supply

Enf. Coordinator Ecko Beggs

Compliance History Worksheet >> Compliance History Site Enhancement (Subtotal 2)									
>>	Compliance Hist Component	Number of	Number	Adjust.					
	NOVs	Written notices of violation ("NOVs") with same or similar violations as those in the current enforcement action (number of NOVs meeting criteria)	1	5%					
		Other written NOVs	0	0%					
		Any agreed final enforcement orders containing a denial of liability (number of orders meeting criteria)	0	0%					
	Orders	Any adjudicated final enforcement orders, agreed final enforcement orders without a denial of liability, or default orders of this state or the federal government, or any final prohibitory emergency orders issued by the commission	0	0%					
	Judgments and Consent	Any non-adjudicated final court judgments or consent decrees containing a denial of liability of this state or the federal government (number of judgments or consent decrees meeting criteria)	0	0%					
	Decrees	Any adjudicated final court judgments and default judgments, or non-adjudicated final court judgments or consent decrees without a denial of liability, of this state or the federal government	0	0%					
	Convictions	Any criminal convictions of this state or the federal government (number of counts)	0	0%					
	Emissions	Chronic excessive emissions events (number of events)	0	0%					
	Audits	Letters notifying the executive director of an intended audit conducted under the Texas Environmental, Health, and Safety Audit Privilege Act, 74th Legislature, 1995 (number of audits for which notices were submitted)	0	0%					
	Addits	Disclosures of violations under the Texas Environmental, Health, and Safety Audit Privilege Act, 74th Legislature, 1995 (number of audits for which violations were disclosed)	0	0%					
		Environmental management systems in place for one year or more	No	0%					
	Other	Voluntary on-site compliance assessments conducted by the executive director under a special assistance program	No	0%					
	0 0.101	Participation in a voluntary pollution reduction program	No	0%					
		Early compliance with, or offer of a product that meets future state or federal government environmental requirements	No	0%					
		Adjustment Per	centage (Sub	total 2)	5%				
>>	Repeat Violator	(Subtotal 3)							
	N/A	Adjustment Per	centage (Sub	total 3)	0%				
>>	Compliance Hist	ory Person Classification (Subtotal 7)							
	N/A Adjustment Percentage (Subtotal 7) 0%								
>> Compliance History Summary									
	Compliance History Notes	Enhancement for one NOV with the same/similar violations.							
		Total Compliance History Adjustment Percentage (S	Subtotals 2,	3, & 7)	5%				
>> I	Final Compliance	History Adjustment Final Adjustment Percent	age *capped a	at 100%	5%				

	Scre	ening Date	28-Apr-2021		Do	cket No.	2021-0601-PWS-E		PCW
		•	RCH WATER SU	JPPLY CORPO	RATION			Policy I	Revision 5 (January 28, 2021)
D		ase ID No.						PCI	V Revision February 11, 2021
Reg.	Ent. Ker		RN102689635						
	Fnf C	oordinator	Public Water St	ирріу					
		tion Number							
		Rule Cite(s)							
		Rule Cite(s)		30 Tex	. Admin. Cod	de § 290.44	(h)(1)(A)		
							vided at all residence		
			form of an				mination hazard exist bly, as identified in		
	Violatio	n Description					ondent did not ensu		
			additional p				s served by on-site	sewage	
				facilities wh	iere irrigatioi	n systems w	ere installed.		
							Pac	e Penalty	\$5,000
							Das	e Pellaity	\$5,000
>> Env	/ironme	ntal, Prope	rty and Hum	nan Health Harm	Matrix				
		Release	Major	narm Moderate	Minor				
OR		Actual							
		Potential	Х				Percent 30.0%		
>> Dro	~ r a m m a	tic Matrix							
>>P10	gi aiiiiiia	tic Matrix Falsification	Major	Moderate	Minor				
							Percent 0.0%		
						-			
	Matrix						honage to occur res		
	Notes	persons se	erved by the Fa		posed to cor ve of human		which would exceed	levels	
				protectiv	ve or riuman	ileaitii.			
						Adj	ustment	\$3,500	
								Ī	\$1,500
								L	Ψ1/300
Violatio	on Event	ts							
		Number of \	/iolation Events	2		47	Number of violation	days	
					<u>.</u>			•	
			daily						
			weekly monthly	v					
			quarterly	X			Violation Bas	e Penalty	\$3,000
			semiannual					- 1	, ,
			annual						
			single event						
		Two monthly	events are reco	ommended, ca to the April 2			12, 2021 record re	view date	
				to the April 2	.0, 2021 5610	ening date.			
Good F	aith Effo	orts to Com	ply	0.0%				Reduction	\$0
			E	Before NOE/NOV	NOE/NOV to E	DPRP/Settleme	ent Offer		
			Extraordinary						
			Ordinary						
			N/A	X					
			Notes	The Respon			good faith criteria		
			110103		for thi	is violation.			
							Violetie	Cubtatal	42 000
	_							Subtotal	\$3,000
Econon	nic Bene	efit (EB) for	this violation	on			Statutory Limit	Test	
		Estimate	ed EB Amount		\$95] v	iolation Final Pen	alty Total	\$3,150
				This viola	ation Final A	Assessed P	enalty (adjusted f	or limits)	\$3,150

	E	conomic	Benefit	Wo	rksheet			
Respondent RCH WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION Case ID No. 60689								
								Reg. Ent. Reference No.
	Public Water S					Percent Interest	Years of Depreciation	
						5.0	15	
	Item Cost	Date Required	Final Date	Yrs	Interest Saved	Costs Saved	EB Amount	
Item Description		•						
Delayed Costs								
Equipment	\$1,000	20-Aug-2020	2-Dec-2021	1.28	\$4	\$86	\$90	
Buildings	, _,, _ ,			0.00	\$0	\$0	\$5	
Other (as needed)				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Engineering/Construction				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Land				0.00	\$0	n/a	\$0	
Record Keeping System				0.00	\$0	n/a	\$0	
Training/Sampling				0.00	\$0	n/a	\$0	
Remediation/Disposal				0.00	\$0	n/a	\$0	
Permit Costs				0.00	\$0	n/a	\$0	
Other (as needed)				0.00	\$0	n/a	\$0	
Notes for DELAYED costs	The delayed cost includes the estimated amount to ensure additional protection is provided in the form of a reduced pressure principle backflow prevention assembly, calculated from the date of the investigation initially documenting the violation to the estimated date of compliance. ANNUALIZE avoided costs before entering item (except for one-time avoided costs)							
Avoided Costs	ANNU	ALIZE avoided C	osts before er	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Disposal Personnel				0.00	\$0 \$0	\$0 \$0	\$0 \$0	
Inspection/Reporting/Sampling				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0 \$0	
Supplies/Equipment				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Financial Assurance				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	
ONE-TIME avoided costs				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Other (as needed)				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Notes for AVOIDED costs					7-7	¥ -	3 -	
Approx. Cost of Compliance		\$1,000			TOTAL		\$95	