



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR



MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ
SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

State Water Resources Control Board

Division of Drinking Water

March 27, 2015
Certified Mail/Return
7012 3460 0003 1113 1809

Syngenta Seeds, Inc.
7770 County Road 29
Glenn, CA 95943

Attention: Lance Atkins, Site Manager

RE: Syngenta Seeds, Inc., Public Water System No. 1100102 – Citation No. 21-15C-026 for Exceedance of the Bacteriological and Nitrate Maximum Contaminant Levels.

Dear Lance Atkins,

Enclosed is a citation issued to Syngenta Seeds, Inc. (System). The citation is being issued because the System failed to achieve the drinking water standard for nitrate in March 2015 and total coliform bacteria in February 2015. Please read this citation carefully. The Unsafe Water Alert notice is to be posted to alert those served by the System that the water is unsafe to drink.

Note that Section 116577 of the California Safe Drinking Water Act provides for the Division to be reimbursed by the public water system for costs incurred for preparing and issuing a citation. In accordance with Section 116577, the System will be billed for the preparation and issuance of this citation. The current reimbursement rate is approximately \$128 per hour.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call Paul Rowe at (530) 224-4866 or me at (530) 224-4861.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Crenshaw".

Reese B. Crenshaw, P.E.
Valley District Engineer
Drinking Water Field Operations Branch

Enclosures

FELICIA MARCUS, CHAIR | THOMAS HOWARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 101, Redding, CA 96002 | www.waterboards.ca.gov

1 **Citation No. 21-15C-026**

2
3 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**
4 **WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD**
5 **DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER**
6

7 **Public Water System:** Syngenta Seeds, Inc.

8 **Water System No.:** 1100102
9

10 **To:** Syngenta Seeds, Inc.

11 Attn: Lance Atkins, Site Manager
12 7770 County Road 29
13 Glenn, CA 95943
14

15 **Issued:** March 27, 2015

16 VIA CERTIFIED MAIL
17

18 **CITATION FOR NONCOMPLIANCE**

19 **With Title 22 California Code of Regulations**

20 **Section 64426.1(b) and 64431**
21

22 Section 116650 of the California Health and Safety Code (CHSC) authorizes the
23 issuance of a citation for failure to comply with a requirement of the California Safe
24 Drinking Water Act (CHSC, Division 104, Part 12, Chapter 4, commencing with
25 Section 116270), or any regulation, standard, permit, or order issued thereunder.
26

27 The State Water Resources Control Board (hereinafter "Board"), acting by and
28 through its Division of Drinking Water (hereinafter "Division") and the Deputy Director

1 for the Division, hereby issues a citation to Syngenta Seeds, Inc. for failure to
2 comply with Section 64426.1(b) and 64431, Title 22, of the California Code of
3 Regulations (CCR).

4
5 **APPLICABLE AUTHORITIES**

6 Section 116650 of the CHSC states:

7
8 *(a) If the department determines that a public water system is in*
9 *violation of this chapter or any regulation, permit, standard, citation,*
10 *or order issued or adopted thereunder, the department may issue a*
11 *citation to the public water system. The citation shall be served*
12 *upon the public water system personally or by certified mail. Service*
13 *shall be deemed effective as of the date of personal service or the*
14 *date of receipt of the certified mail. If a person to whom a citation is*
15 *directed refuses to accept delivery of the certified mail, the date of*
16 *service shall be deemed to be the date of mailing.*

17
18 *(b) Each citation shall be in writing and shall describe the nature of the*
19 *violation or violations, including a reference to the statutory*
20 *provision, standard, order, citation, permit, or regulation alleged to*
21 *have been violated.*

22
23 *(c) A citation may specify a date for elimination or correction of the*
24 *condition constituting the violation.*

25
26 *(d) A citation may include the assessment of a penalty as specified in*
27 *subdivision (e).*

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(e) The department may assess a penalty in an amount not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per day for each day that a violation occurred, and for each day that a violation continues to occur. A separate penalty may be assessed for each violation.

Section 64426.1(b), Title 22, of the CCR states:

(b) A public water system is in violation of the total coliform MCL [maximum contaminant level] when any of the following occurs:

(1) For a public water system which collects at least 40 samples per month, more than 5.0 percent of the samples collected during any month are total coliform-positive; or

(2) For a public water system which collects fewer than 40 samples per month, more than one sample collected during any month is total coliform-positive; or

(3) Any repeat sample is fecal coliform-positive or E. coli-positive; or

(4) Any repeat sample following a fecal coliform-positive or E. coli-positive routine sample is total coliform-positive.

1 Section 64431, Title 22, of the CCR states:

2

3 *(a) Public water systems shall comply with the primary MCL's in*
4 *table 64431-A (Nitrate MCL – 45.0 mg/L).*

5

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7 **STATEMENT OF FACTS**

8 The Syngenta Seeds, Inc., domestic water system (System) is classified as a non-
9 transient non-community water system serving approximately 35 persons. In
10 accordance with Section 64431 of Title 22, the System is required to supply drinking
11 water that remains below the maximum contaminant level for inorganic chemicals.
12 Consequently, on December 4, 2014 and March 5, 2015, nitrate samples were taken
13 and resulted in levels of 60.2 mg/L and 83.3 mg/L, respectively. Furthermore, In
14 accordance with Section 64423 of Title 22, the System is required to collect one
15 routine bacteriological sample per month, unless there was a positive bacteriological
16 sample, in which case, five routine bacteriological samples are required the following
17 month. On February 5, 2015, the System collected five routine samples from the
18 distribution system, all of which contained the presence of total coliform. No samples
19 contained Escherichia-coli (E. coli) bacteria. The cause of contamination is
20 unknown at this time.

21

22 **DETERMINATIONS**

23 The Division has determined that the System violated Section 64426.1(b)(2) and
24 Section 64431, Title 22, of the CCR, in that the System exceeded the total coliform
25 MCL during the month of February 2015, and exceeded the nitrate MCL in
26 December of 2014 and March of 2015.

27

1 **DIRECTIVES**

2 The System is hereby directed to take the following actions:

- 3
- 4 1. Comply with Section 64426.1 and 64431, Title 22, of the CCR in all future
5 monitoring periods.
- 6
- 7 2. Immediately upon the of the issuance of this Citation, notify all persons
8 to cease drinking System water, or to use bottled water, by posting the
9 attached Unsafe Water Alert notice.
- 10
- 11 3. Changes and/or modifications to Attachment 'A' shall not be made unless
12 approved by the Division.
- 13
- 14 4. Complete and return Attachment 'B' "Certification of Completion of Public
15 Notification" form **within 10 days** of posting the Unsafe Water Alert notice.
16
17

18 The completed and signed copy of Attachment 'B' shall be submitted to the following
19 address:

20
21 Reese B. Crenshaw, P. E.
22 Valley District Engineer
23 Drinking Water Field Operations
24 Division of Drinking Water
25 State Water Resources Control Board
26 364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 101
27 Redding, CA 96002
28 (530) 224-4800

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Nothing in this Citation relieves the System of its obligation to meet the requirements of Health and Safety Code, Division 104, Part 12, Chapter 4 (California Safe Drinking Water Act), or any regulation, permit, standard or order issued or adopted thereunder.

The Division reserves the right to make such modifications to this Citation, as it may deem necessary to protect public health and safety. Such modifications may be issued as amendments to this Citation and shall be effective upon issuance.

FURTHER ENFORCEMENT ACTION

The California SDWA authorizes the Board to: issue citation with assessment of administrative penalties to a public water system for violation or continued violation of the requirements of the California SDWA or any permit, regulation, permit or order issued or adopted thereunder including, but not limited to, failure to correct a violation identified in a citation or compliance order. The California SDWA also authorizes the Board to take action to suspend or revoke a permit that has been issued to a public water system if the system has violated applicable law or regulations or has failed to comply with an order of the Board; and to petition the superior court to take various enforcement measures against a public water system that has failed to comply with violates an order of the Board. The Board does not waive any further enforcement action by issuance of this citation.

PARTIES BOUND

This Citation shall apply to and be binding upon the System, its officers, directors, agents, employees, contractors, successors, and assignees.

1 **SEVERABILITY**

2 The directives of this Citation are severable, and Syngenta Seeds, Inc. shall comply
3 with each and every provision thereof notwithstanding the effectiveness of any other
4 provision.

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R. Crenshaw

3/27/15

9

Reese B. Crenshaw, P.E., District Engineer

Date

10

Valley District

11

Drinking Water Field Operations Branch

12

13

Attachments:

14

'A' Unsafe Water Alert notice

15

'B' Certification of Completion

16



3/27/2015

UNSAFE WATER ALERT

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable.
Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Syngenta Seeds, Inc. drinking water is contaminated with Nitrate and Total Coliform

DO NOT USE WATER

Failure to follow this advisory could result in illness.

Due to recent detection of both nitrate and total coliform in the drinking water supplied by the Syngenta Seeds, Inc. water system, the State Water Resources Control Board and Syngenta Seeds, Inc. are advising all employees served by the water system to **NOT USE THE TAP WATER FOR DRINKING, COOKING, HAND WASHING, OR BATHING UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

What should I do?

- **DO NOT USE YOUR TAP WATER---USE ONLY BOTTLED WATER.** *Bottled water should be used for all drinking (including baby formula and juice), brushing teeth, washing dishes, making ice, food preparation and bathing **until further notice.***
- **Potable water (BOTTLED WATER) is available in the employee break room and the lunchroom.**
- **Infants below the age of six months** who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL may quickly become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die because high nitrate levels can interfere with the capacity of the infant's blood to carry oxygen. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin. Symptoms in infants can develop rapidly, with health deteriorating over a period of days. If symptoms occur, seek medical attention immediately.
- High nitrate levels may also affect the oxygen-carrying ability of the blood of **pregnant women.**
- **DO NOT TRY AND TREAT THE WATER YOURSELF.** Boiling, freezing, filtering, adding chlorine or other disinfectants, or letting water stand will not make the water safe.

We will inform you when tests show that the water is safe again. We expect to resolve the problem within _____

For more information call:

Water Utility contact: Lance Atkin - Site Manager, or Katherine Clay – HSES Manager.
7770 County Road 29, Glenn, CA 95943. Call 530-893-4718
State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Drinking Water at 530-224-4861
Glenn County Environmental Health at 530-934-6102

This notice is being sent to you by Syngenta Seeds, Inc. California Public Water System ID #1100102
Date Distributed: [date].

Please share this information with all other people who receive this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand.

CERTIFICATION OF COMPLETION OF PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

This form, when completed and returned to the Division of Drinking Water (364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 101, Redding, CA 96002 or fax to 530-224-4844), serves as certification that public notification to water users was completed as required by the California Water Quality and Monitoring Regulations. Completing public notification and providing the Division with certification is important. Failure to do so will result in additional hourly time charges to your water utility and may result in a formal enforcement action with monetary penalties.

Public Water System Name Syngenta Seeds, Inc.

Public Water System No. 1100102

Public notification for the February 2015 bacteriological and the March 2015 nitrate MCL exceedances was performed by the following method:

Posting in conspicuous locations throughout the area served by the water system; or

Mail, email, or hand delivery to persons served by the water system.

I hereby certify that the above information is factual.

Printed Name

Signature

Date