



Enforcement News

Siskiyou County Drinking Water Operators Lose Licenses Following False Reporting of Public Water Test Results

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SACRAMENTO – Two water treatment operators in Siskiyou County have surrendered licenses required to operate public drinking water systems after pleading no contest in a criminal investigation in which water tests found positive for bacteria were never reported.

“There was a clear breach of public trust in this case where the public was recklessly exposed to bacteria because these two violated their public health obligation as license holders,” said Bruce Burton, assistant deputy director for the State Water Board’s Division of Drinking Water. “We want to send a very clear message to the public and the water treatment operator community that the State Water Board takes all violations of drinking water regulations very seriously and will not hesitate to criminally prosecute those who knowingly put the public in danger.”

In the plea deal accepted by a Siskiyou County Superior Court Judge on April 5, Ronald Dean Larue of Dunsmuir and Wayne Garland Grigsby of McCloud pled no contest to one count of making a false statement or representation, a violation of Health and Safety Code Section 116730(a)(1), a misdemeanor. They also immediately surrendered their drinking water system operator licenses. In the plea deal, the men will not serve jail time or be fined. By losing these licenses, they are banned from operating a California public drinking water system.

A State Water Board investigation by its Office of Enforcement and the Division of Drinking Water revealed that on multiple occasions, from March 2012 to September 2015, water system personnel working for the city of Dunsmuir and the McCloud Community Services District failed to report monthly bacteriological water samples with positive findings to the Division of Drinking Water. They were also accused of failing to take the required repeat samples as prescribed in state regulations when a positive bacteria sample is identified. These findings were then submitted to the Siskiyou County District Attorney’s Office.

In the criminal complaint filed by the Siskiyou County District Attorney’s Office, Larue and Grigsby allegedly failed to report positive findings of bacteria in public water systems to the State Water Board’s Division of Drinking Water. Both men were arraigned Oct. 25, 2016, on 24 misdemeanor charges.

For more information about the investigation, court filings, and documents related to charges against Larue and Grigsby, please visit [Complaints, Judgments, Disciplinary Actions and News Releases](#) webpage. You can also go online to learn more about the State Water Board’s [Office of Enforcement](#) or its [Division of Drinking Water](#).

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