

The City of Ouray was issued a Wastewater Discharge Permit June 19, 2014 by Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) Water Quality Division. All wastewater discharge permits are issued based on the waterway characteristics, in case of the City of Ouray the Uncompahgre with a variety of required limits. The permit documents identified limits and also outlined specific duties called a Compliance Schedule. Two of the duties included a. Lagoon Liner Integrity "liner" and b. Activities to Meet Dissolved Cadmium, Dissolved Copper and Total Recoverable Iron Final Limits "metals". The City contracted with an engineer regarding the liner and there appeared to be activity regarding the metals. The Compliance Schedule documents deadline dates are to be met as specified in the permit. The dates for metals were from May 31, 2015 to April 30, 2017. The duties outlined were not met at the specified date. Interim City Administrator Sickles and an engineering firm specializing in wastewater discharge treatment and discharge JVA Consulting Engineers have scheduled a meeting in Denver with CDPHE to request approval of a plan to deal with metals. The required limits set forth in the permit have been met except for E. coli that has triggered a compliance advisory, in other words the City is not meeting the permitted requirements. Simply this is an issue with the process of chlorination and de-chlorination, however like any process the problem could be as simple as calibrating, replacing and/or repairing equipment. The City staff is working diligently to test, check and contact appropriate vendors to aid in determining how to best reduce E. coli and comply with CDPHE limits.

CDPHE provides numerous notices from minor to major violations. In all notices, they provide a statement, "Pursuant to CRS 25-8-608, any person who violates any provision of the Colorado Water Quality Control Act, or of any permit issued under the act, or any control regulation promulgated pursuant to the act, shall be subject to a civil penalty of up to \$10,000 per violation for each day during which such violation occurs." Please be assured, City officials will be doing all that is necessary to move the wastewater system into compliance.

It is also important to state the domestic water system tests negative for the metals identified in the discharge. This evidence suggests that the metals are either being discharged from a sewer customer or a greater possibility is that water runoff or storm water drainage is entering the sewer collection system typically referred to as I & I (Inflow and Infiltration).

The City of Ouray holds more than one wastewater discharge permit of which will be addressed by permit renewal and other processes that will require a certain amount of wastewater treatment consultants.

The \$5 monthly sewer restricted fee was recommended by Interim City Administrator Sickles to insure that the current sewer collection and treatment operations were not adversely affected while working on compliance. City Council countered the recommendation as a decision they would consider in 2018. The water, sewer and refuse fees were approved as drafted without the additional \$5 monthly sewer fee.