

# Department of Environmental Quality

Amanda Smith Executive Director

DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER Kenneth H. Bousfield, P.E. Director

August 22, 2013

Mr. George R. Mason Bumblebee Water System 352 E Riverside Dr. Suite A3 St. George, UT 84790

Dear Mr. Mason:

Subject: Capacity Assessment, Business Plan for Bumblebee Water System, Construction of

water storage tank, pump station and water lines for 58 service connections, Water

System #11089

According to Utah Drinking Water Rules R309-800, Capacity Development is required for community and non-transient non-community water system. The objective of Capacity Development is to ensure that every public water system acquires and maintains the technical, managerial, and financial capabilities to comply with the requirements of SDWA and all national primary drinking water regulations (NPDWR).

Bumblebee Water System is located in Iron County and is in the process of developing a water system to supply culinary water to 58 proposed cabins. Your project consists of one steel water storage tank of 289,000 gallons. The storage tank, pump station and waterlines have already been built but because there is only one house built so far, the service is delivered to this house only. The connections will increase as new houses will be constructed.

Based on our review of information you have submitted as well as information in Division of Drinking Water (Division) files, the Division believes the proposed drinking water system represents a satisfactory allocation of resources to meet the area's culinary water needs.

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The Capacity Assessment additionally addresses whether or not the proposed project is well-suited, from technical, managerial, and financial perspectives, to acquiring or maintaining the capability to comply with SDWA requirements and aiding water systems to meet national public drinking water regulations. Based on water system responses on the Capacity Assessment report/worksheets and information available in Division records, the Division determines whether the System has adequate capacity and may also make recommendations as to how the System might improve its technical, managerial and financial capacity (capabilities).

## **Division Findings**

## **Technical Capacity**

The Division commends Bumblebee for the knowledge of your system and its infrastructure as evidenced by your responses in the Capacity Assessment report. You are also to be commended for maintaining adequate pressure in the distribution system as well as implementing a leak detection and repair program. You should also establish a backflow prevention program and a cross-connection control program. Your responses in the report and worksheets indicate that you have an adequate knowledge of system infrastructure and estimated water use within the system.

The Division strongly suggests that customers are metered and that the meters are calibrated and tested to ensure their accuracy and reliability. Accurate water use readings are helpful in identifying unaccounted-for water, determining system-wide water conservation measures, and also have a direct impact on the water system planning and finances.

#### **Managerial Capacity**

Your report about management of the water system appears satisfactory and it appears that the system will be managed well. The operational staff is qualified and management and administration staffs seem to be responsible in O &M of the water system including scheduling work and following rules and regulations. You answered that the system employs properly trained and certified water system operator which are fully aware of monitoring requirements and scheduling mechanism to assure compliance. The water system appears to have sufficient knowledge and expertise in management, maintenance, and regulatory compliance overall.

The Division recommends the system develop and implement written operating procedures for both routine and emergency system operations and be fully aware of OSHA regulations. Such procedures can help the system mitigate potential damage to infrastructure and/or harm to customers in the event of natural disasters, vandalism, or intentional tampering with equipment.

### **Financial Capacity**

Your responses in the report indicate that the System has a capital reserve and replacement account included in the annual budget. The billing procedures will be in place and collecting from delinquent accounts will be considered. You also indicate that the water system uses standard

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accounting and tracking systems and that expense and budgetary controls are exercised. While these things are indicators of good financial management but because you don't seem to have audited statements, the system will find difficulty in managing balance budget and won't be able to control illegitimate expenses. The Division recommends performing an annual audit, keeping track of cash flow, and balancing the budget.

#### **Conclusions**

Based on our review of responses you provided in the Capacity Assessment Report and information in Division records, the Division believes the system's technical, managerial, and financial capacity has been accurately identified. Bumblebee Water System is to be commended for moving forward to develop the water system and strengthen its capacity and assure compliance with SDWA and the national public drinking water regulations as well as provide an adequate supply of safe drinking water to your residents. The Division also believes that through implementing the submitted Capacity Assessment Plan and following Division recommendations, that Bumblebee will acquire and maintain adequate technical, managerial, and financial capacity to comply with SDWA and the national public drinking water regulations.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 801-536-0098 or ndev@utah.gov.

Regards,

Nagendra Dev, P.E.

**Environmental Engineer** 

cc:

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