



## COLORADO

### Water & Wastewater Facility Operators Certification Board

Department of Public Health & Environment

Ronald L. Weisshaar  
415 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
Burlington, CO 80807-0366

December 16, 2015

Re: Letter of Reprimand from the Colorado Water and Wastewater Facility Operators Certification Board

Dear Mr. Weisshaar:

The Colorado Water and Wastewater Facility Operators Certification Board, under the authority granted by Title 25, article 9, section 104(6), Colorado Revised Statutes, hereby issues this reprimand to Mr. Ronald L. Weisshaar, Colorado Wastewater Treatment, level D, and Collection System, level 2, Operator Identification Number 6834.

The cornerstone of the system established by the State of Colorado to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act and to ensure the protection of the public health and the environment is that facilities will rigorously adhere to the requirements of the Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulations. You do not contest that you were intimately involved in the City of Burlington's systematic decisions between 2009 and 2014 to send selective and misleading nitrate sampling reports. While many Operators in Responsible Charge (ORCs) are not involved in sampling, reporting, and public notification, you chose to conduct almost all sampling and reporting and did so for over twenty years. You do not contest that you were fully aware of and/or fully participated in the city's selective and misleading reporting, the city's failure to take confirmation samples, the city's failure to issue public notices, and the city's failure to notify the Department.

By your actions, you have not only undermined the integrity of the self-monitoring system for drinking water facilities but have also weakened the level of trust and respect to which certified operators are entitled. By failing to report instances of non-compliance or situations that could result in non-compliance as appropriate to facility owners and the department, you violated Regulation 100.16.5(g). Failing to exercise reasonable care and judgment consistent with your level of certification and degree of responsibility is a violation of 100.20.1(a). You also acted in a manner inconsistent with the Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulations in violation of Regulation 100.20.2, and submitted misleading information on documents provided to the department, in violation of Regulation 100.20.1(d).

These violations may have placed at risk large numbers of infant children and other vulnerable populations living in or visiting the City of Burlington. Without public notice of the nitrate MCL exceedances, the public was not aware of the need to take action to protect themselves, their infant children, or other vulnerable family members.



In light of your actions, the Water and Wastewater Facility Operators Certification Board has revoked your Water Treatment level D and Distribution System level 2 certificates. In addition, the board has deemed it appropriate to issue this formal reprimand regarding your Wastewater Treatment level D and Collection System level 2 certificates. The board hereby instructs you that scrupulous conformance to the requirements in Regulation 100 and all applicable regulatory and permit requirements is required when conducting your domestic wastewater treatment and collection system duties. Failure to do so will jeopardize those remaining certifications.



For the Water and Wastewater Facility Operators Certification Board:  
Tom Settle, Chair

cc: Ron Falco, WQCD, Safe Drinking Water Program Manager  
Nicole Rowan, WQCD, Clean Water Program Manager  
Jackie Whelan, WQCD, Facility Operator Program

