

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Joint Investigation by DPH and PURA of REJA's (Rainbow Springs)
Request to Cease Operations as a Water Company

DOCKET NO. 14-12-21

INTERROGATORY COMPLIANCE

EN-1 to EN-17

REJA Acquisition Corporation - Rainbow Springs Division

Date: March 8, 2015

Joint Investigation by DPH and PURA of REJA's (Rainbow Springs) Request to Cease Operations as a Water Company, Docket Number 14-12-21

Prepared by: John Wittenzellner Jr.

Interrogatory EN-1:

(CONTRACT) Does REJA have an operational contract with any entities to manage, maintain and operate the Rainbow Springs Water System? Identify the associated cost of managing, maintaining, and operating the water system and any other pertinent cost(s). Provide a copy of the operational contract.

Response:

Rainbow Springs does not have a contract to operate the system. Approximate annual costs include:

Billing:	\$ 600.00
Bookkeeping/Accounting:	600.00
Electricity:	500.00
Operations:	1,500.00
Sampling:	390.00
Taxes:	250.00
Total:	\$ 3,840.00

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Interrogatory EN-2:

(DESCRIPTION OF SYSTEM) Provide a detailed description of the Rainbow Springs Water System including, but not limited to, land, equipment, buildings, wells, water treatment systems, storage facilities, pumping facilities, distribution systems, hydrants, actual date in-service and actual cost of the water equipment. The description of the water equipment should also include the hydraulic capabilities, flow, pressure, size, length, and safe yield of the equipment.

Response:

See Water Supply Plan "Exhibit No. 2".

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Interrogatory EN-3:

(GENERATOR) Does REJA have a standby generator for emergencies? If yes, provide a detailed description of that generator. If no, explain what REJA does in the case of commercial power losses.

Response:

No, Rainbow Springs does not have a generator. However, this system does have a generator plug and associate transfer switch to allow for the connection of a portable generator when needed.

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Interrogatory EN-4:

(IMPROVEMENTS) What type of short-term and long-term capital improvements are needed for the Rainbow Springs Water System within the next five years? Identify the anticipated capital improvement, date of each improvement and estimated cost of the improvements.

Response:

There was a major reconstruction of this system to eliminate the need to enter the Crocker home and proceed through a bedroom to get to the basement that included the installation of a concrete vault and new electrical system. Therefore, there is no short or long term requirement for REJA to further improve the system. However, the Town of Middlefield or a larger utility may have addition requirement for a system of this size that may include a SCADA system.

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Interrogatory EN-5:

(IMPROVEMENTS PAST) Provide a list of major repairs to Rainbow Springs Water System within the last five years. Identify the repairs, date of completion, and the total cost of those repairs.

Response:

1. Submersible pump replacement
Date: 4/4/2012
Cost: \$ 2,280.00

2. Electrical improvements
Date: 12/1/11
Cost: \$ 1,935.78

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Interrogatory EN-6:

(NON-REVENUE WATER) For years 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014, submit an exhibit which provides by year, the following: a) actual yearly water production (gallons); b) actual yearly water purchases (gallons); c) actual yearly water sales (gallons); and d) the percentage of Non-Revenue water for the Rainbow Springs Water Systems.

Response:

Rainbow Springs is an unmetered water utility, therefore this information is unavailable.

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Interrogatory EN-7:

(PROPERTIES) Provide any existing appraisals or valuations of the Rainbow Springs Water Systems properties, whether real or personal, that includes, but is not limited to, land, equipment and buildings. Identify and explain any liens against any of the properties and the amount of the said liens.

Response:

The Town of Middlefield property assessment of this water system on 1/11/2008 was \$ 81,040.00

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Interrogatory EN-8:

(REGULATORY) Provide copies of the most recent DPH inspection reports and an updated status report of REJA's compliance with requirements and recommendations listed in those reports. Include all related correspondence. If REJA has not complied with an order, provide the status and expected date of compliance.

Response:

See "Exhibit No. 4".

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Interrogatory EN-9:

(REGULATORY) Provide a list and detailed status updates on DPH and the DEEP Consent Orders for the Rainbow Springs Water System, if any, and any other issued violations. Indicate the status of compliance with those Consent Order(s). Provide copies of the DPH and the DEEP related correspondence and evidence that those orders have been lifted.

Response:

There are no Consent Orders for the Rainbow Springs Water System. See "Exhibit No. 4".

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Interrogatory EN-10:

(SITE CONDITION) Describe the site condition of the area around the wells and storage tanks. Are they easily accessible? What are the conditions of the roads that lead to the wells and storage tanks?

Response:

As identified in the Water Supply Plan (Exhibit No. 2), the well and tanks are located in a concrete vault that is located behind the Crocker home. There is no driveway to this location from the road, however the location was accessible for a vehicle as large as a crane (used when installing the vault).

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Interrogatory EN-11:

(TRANSFER) Has REJA contacted any companies that would take over the operation and management of Rainbow Springs Water System? If so, provide correspondence and any other information concerning the possible transfer of the Rainbow Springs Water System to a company with the technical, financial and managerial resources to run the existing water system.

Response:

Yes. REJA contacted and negotiated with Aquarion and Valley Water Companies. There was no interest from either utility. However, it is assumed that the most appropriate entity to take over this system is the Town of Middlefield.

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Interrogatory EN-12:

(TRANSFER) Is there a Water Utility Coordinating Committee where the Rainbow Springs Water System is located? If so, please identify.

Response:

Yes. The Rainbow Springs system is located in Middlefield which is part of The South Central Public Water Supply Management Area.

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Interrogatory EN-13:

(TRANSFER) What are the names of the regulated or municipal water systems within a five-mile radius of the Rainbow Springs Water System.

Response:

Middlefield Housing Authority
Bittersweet Ridge Water Authority
Meriden Water Division
Sylvan Ridge Condominiums
Stonegate Springs
Old Indian Trail
Durham Lexington Place Division
Wallingford Water Department
Middletown Water Department
Hill Hollow Association

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Interrogatory EN-14:

(TRANSFER) Has REJA explored the possibility of a water main interconnection to and existing municipal or private water company to accommodate the Rainbow Springs' customers?

Response:

Yes. In the late 1990s, it was agreed that this system would be transferred to REJA in an attempt to avoid the abandonment of the system by the Crocker family. The system would be upgraded and extended during the planned upgrades to the Lake Beseck water system. A similar project had just been completed at Amston Lake in the Town of Hebron where a seasonal water system was converted to a year round water system, resulting in a significant economic boost to the area.

Unfortunately, although there was widespread contamination of the wells that are located along the westerly side Lake Beseck that had previously come off of the seasonal system, the Town Manager ordered the Town Sanitarian to issue well permits until all customers were off of the system.

Today, there is no existing water system that an economically feasible connection can be obtained.

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Interrogatory EN-15:

(WATER LEAKS) List all leaks discovered during the last five years. Identify the street(s) where the leaks were discovered, provide a description of the pipe, the date of original installation of the pipe, and the date of the repair of the leaks.

Response:

There is no recollection of leaks in the distribution system during the last five years.

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Interrogatory EN-16:

(WATER PRESSURE) Indicate if any customers within the Rainbow Springs Water System experience water service pressure less than 25 pounds per square inch.

Response:

There are no customers that experience water service pressure less than 25 pounds per square inch. However, in March of 2012, a well pump failure caused a no water condition. Our records indicate a loss of water for a period of approximately 4 hours.

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Interrogatory EN-17:

(WATER QUALITY) What was the status of the Rainbow Springs water quality for the last three years?

Response:

The status of the water quality over the last three years is reported in the Consumer Confidence Reports and attached as "Exhibit No. 6".