

1. Site Name	2. Operational Period	Incident Briefing
Crow Agency Vandalism	October 4-6, 2017	

3. Site Description

On October 4, 2017, the Crow Water Authority reported the vandalism of their Water Treatment Plant in Crow Agency, MT (population ~1800). An unknown suspect severely damaged various tanks, wiring, control panels and a chlorine cylinder. The suspect also added high concentrations of poly acrylamide into the plant's clear well (the reservoir designed to hold treated water before it is distributed). Under normal circumstances, poly acrylamide is used at lower concentrations early in the water treatment process to separate particulates before the initial filtering of raw water. At high concentrations, poly acrylamide can have adverse impacts on human health, especially in children.

The damaged Water Treatment Plant shares infrastructure (building structure, overflow ponds, distribution network) with a separate plant operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). Normally, the two plants serve separate user communities but they can be operated in such a way to compliment each other. When operating at maximum capacity, the BIA plant is capable of supplying the full system demand.

4. Current Situation

An unknown amount of contaminated water has entered the public water supply. Due to the possibility of high levels of poly acrylamide in the contaminated water, all water users in Crow have been instructed to not drink nor come into contact with water in their taps. All preliminary sample results received for all constituents are below acceptable levels, IOC and Herbicide results are expected imminently. Sample results for poly acrylamide may not be available for several days.

The Crow Water Authority's Water Treatment Plant is not operational. The BIA Water Treatment Facility has assumed production of all water in Crow Agency. This BIA facility can maintain this support for the near future but the Crow Water Authority Plant needs to be brought back on-line. Law Enforcement authorities have released access to the vandalized facility. EPA's Response Unit has surveyed the facility and identified the repairs that will be needed to bring the Crow Water Authority facility back on-line.

5. Response Operations

1. **Flush the water distribution system.**
 - Planned Activities
 - a. The main lines of the water distribution system will be temporarily opened at strategic hydrant locations to flush remnant contaminants.
 - b. The taps at critical facilities such as the hospital, nursing home and school will be temporarily opened to flush remnant contaminants.
 - c. Residents will be encouraged to temporarily open their faucets to flush remnant contaminants.

Anticipated Activities

- d. All water use restrictions will be lifted.

2. Bring the Crow Water Authority Plant back on line.

Planned Activities

- a. EPA and the Tribe will identify the steps required to repair the vandalized Water Treatment Plant and bring it back on-line.
- b. EPA's Response Unit will facilitate the steps required to immediately stabilize conditions at the vandalized Water Treatment Plant

Anticipated Activities

- c. EPA will support the Tribe and its partners to facilitate the remaining steps required to bring the facility back on-line.
- d. EPA and the Tribe will conduct the sampling and inspection activities to bring the facility back on-line.