

Entranosa Water News

November 30, 2006

Water Hardness. We've entered our winter pumping cycle and our water becomes less hard this time of year. Our hardness this past summer was in the range of 25 to 33 parts per million, We are currently in the range of 15 to 18 parts per million, and we'll stay in that range until March. If that changes, we'll provide an update.

Winter. Though not officially here – it IS here, we've already had more than one hard freeze and we've already taken our first call for 'no water'. As a reminder, if you don't have water, **CALL US** (regardless of the temperature) and we'll come out. If the meter is frozen – we'll unfreeze it (this takes some time); if your water line is frozen, we'll provide suggestions for you to thaw it too. Often, if you open a faucet slightly, such that it'll drip several times a minute, it can help prevent a freezing situation, or it can help thaw out a line. We've found a number of the meters associated with new construction frozen – the meter was connected to a yard hydrant (not frost-free hydrant, just a yard hydrant), the hydrants have frozen, and the frozen water worked its way back to the meter. Each meter has a 'freeze plate' to protect it, but when it cracks (as it is designed to do) ... the meter is running on the customer side of the meter.

Silver Anniversary. While Entranosa was formed as a cooperative in January 1981, we finally obtained ownership of infrastructure (water mains) in November of that year. Happy Silver Anniversary, and thank you for being members of the Association.

Holiday Operations. The office was closed on Thanksgiving Day and on Friday the 24th. In December, we will close at noon on Friday the 22nd and we'll be closed all day Monday the 25th. We'll read meters on Tuesday the 27th, send out bills on Friday the 29th. The office will be closed on Monday, January 1st of 2007. As always, you can leave routine messages on our answering machine (281-8700) and if you need emergency assistance, you can reach our duty man at 604-5935. We hope you have a pleasant holiday season, and that you remain safe.

On-line Water Database. The New Mexico Environment Department has announced a new website ... www.safewater.state.nm.us, and it provides a great deal of information about drinking water systems around the state, including Entranosa and the other 17 community water systems in the east mountain area. Look for us under "Santa Fe County".

Don't forget to carry a shovel, a cell phone, a non-alcoholic drinking fluid, and a blanket when you drive

Merry Christmas, and May the New Year Bring you Joy.

From all of us at Entranosa

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG – IT IS THE LAW. 260-1990

How Bottled Water “Works”

By Julia Layton

(from “How Stuff Works”, <http://home.howstuffworks.com/bottled-water.htm>)

For a natural resource that most of us have access to for minimal cost, water is doing pretty well as a revenue generator. The bottled version of the stuff is currently an eight billion dollar industry in the United States alone, with Americans drinking about seven billion gallons of it in 2005. Compare that to hundreds of billions of gallons of tap water, but for a product that can cost up to 10,000 times more than its community water system counter part, it is still an impressive marketshare.

So, what is the appeal? The three most common reasons given by bottled-water drinkers are healthiness, purity and taste. The first two reasons are somewhat misguided, and the third is open for debate. For a seemingly basic food product, bottled water has generated its share of controversy. Some of it focuses on the federal and state regulations governing the industry, some of it goes deeper in the ecological implications of bottling and transporting billions of gallons of something that flows freely from the tap, and some of it calls into question the labeling practices of bottled-water companies.

The labeling can sometimes be misleading. One famous example is the now defunct Alaska Water, which stated on the label, "Alaska Premium Glacier Drinking Water: Pure Glacier Water From the Last Unpolluted Frontier," and it really came from one of the municipal water supplies in Juneau. Today, Glacier Clear Water comes from a source in Greeneville, Tennessee. Look past the names and descriptions and go straight to the water type, the label will more or less tell you what's in the bottle. "Spring water" and "artesian water" are examples of bottled-water types.

Aquafina and Dasani, the two top-selling brands in the United States, are "purified drinking water." Other popular brands, including Poland Spring and Arrowhead ("spring water"), Evian ("mineral water"), Perrier ("sparkling mineral water"), and Eldorado Springs ("artesian spring water"). These labels primarily indicate two things about the water in the bottle: its source and any treatment it has undergone. The FDA regulates the use of terms like "spring water" and "purified water." There are six primary bottled-water types, and several more variations that combine a couple of the basics:

- **Artesian water:** Artesian water comes from an artesian well, which draws water from a **confined aquifer** (an underground, porous rock or sand formation that bears water and is under pressure from a layer of rock or clay above it). The pressure from the confining layer forces the water from the aquifer upward. The level of the water supply the artesian well is drawing from must sit above the uppermost layer of the aquifer.
- **Mineral water:** Mineral water is spring water that has at least 250 parts per million (ppm) of total dissolved solids (TDS) in it. These "dissolved solids" are minerals like calcium, magnesium, sodium and potassium, and they must be present in the water at the source, not added later. By contrast, regular spring water typically has about 50 ppm of TDS.
- **Naturally sparkling water:** Naturally sparkling water comes from a spring or artesian well and has natural carbonation in it. The carbonation may be removed during processing and then replaced, but the carbonation levels after replacement must be the same as the level of carbonation at the source.
- **Purified water:** Purified water comes from either a protected underground source or from a municipal drinking-water supply (public tap water). It has been "demineralized" -- treated by one or more of several processes to remove dissolved solids. If the water comes from a municipal water source that uses chlorine as a disinfectant, the manufacturer may further treat the water to remove the chlorine.
- **Spring water:** Spring water comes from a protected, underground water source from which the water flows to the surface on its own. It may be collected either at the surface spring or through a sanitary, protected hole drilled directly into the source feeding the spring. If the water is collected through a hole drilled into the source, it has to have exactly the same composition as the water in the surface spring.
- **Well water:** Well water is drawn from a protected well that taps directly into an unconfined aquifer.

(we'll try to fit in some more info in the future)