

Entranosa Water News

March 1, 2007

Board Officers. The Board of Directors met in a regularly scheduled meeting in January and elected their officers for this year. They are:

President	Steve Varley
Vice President	Steve Hicks
Treasurer	Ron Bodo
Secretary	Carolyn Freeman

Organizational Form. We have received confirmation from the Corporation Bureau of the Public Regulation Commission that they have completed filing the paperwork that changes our organizational form from that of a mutual domestic association to that of a cooperative association.

Conservation Ordinance. The County of Bernalillo is in the final process of approving its' conservation plan. There are criminal penalties and fines for not complying with the ordinance. There is a wide ranging affect, but for existing home owners you'll need to comply with 'water hours' and you should not allow 'fugitive' water to leave your property – both good practices, but it may soon be law in Bernalillo County. The County of Santa Fe has had a similar water conservation ordinance for several years.

Think Shelter from the Drying Winds. In our part of New Mexico, dry and windy days are all too common. To conserve water, consider building windbreaks. These may be as simple (and ugly) as rows of old tires. Vegetables can be planted in the tires without the fuss of filling them with dirt. After the growing season, the tires can be removed and stored out of sight. Other choices for windbreaks are straw bales or old boards. The boards can be placed on top of newly planted rows of seeds. Remove the boards to water the seeds, but replace them to protect the wet ground from the wind. With the first sign of sprouts, take the boards off the top and prop them up to block the prevailing winds. Bamboo stakes on either side of the boards will prevent them from flopping over when the wind shifts.

Notice of Violation. This month, we received a positive result on two of our bacteriological samples. Pursuant to regulation, we resampled those two locations and others in the vicinity of the original positive samples – and we had a negative result (which means the contamination was gone). We believe the positive samples were the unfortunate result of 'sampling error'. On the reverse of this newsletter is the official NOTICE that is required by law – so it may not be clear why some of the language is there. Your water remains safe – should you have ANY questions, please call the office and ask for John or Lori.

Isolation Valves... and as you consider working outside in the spring – consider installing isolation valves (small ball valves) in the service line on your property. They will allow you to trouble shoot leaks that may occur – and save time, water, and damage.

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG – IT IS THE LAW.

260-1990

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER
Tests Show Coliform Bacteria in Entranosa Water & Wastewater Association Water

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. To date, we've take fourteen samples for coliform bacteria in the month of February 2007. Two of those samples showed the presence of coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than one of our samples per month may do so.

What should you do?

- You do NOT need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1 (800) 425-4971.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Total coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. *Coliform are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliform were found in more samples than allowed and this is a warning of potential problems.*

Usually, coliform are a sign that there could be a problem with the treatment or distribution system (pipes). Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or E. coli, are present. We did not find any of these bacteria in our subsequent testing. If we had, we would have notified you immediately. However we are still finding coliform in the drinking water.

What happened? What is being done?

(Entranosa comment) - During our routine sampling in early February, the samples from two separate (but proximate) locations tested positive for total coliform. We returned to take a new sample from each of the sites that showed a positive result, and we took additional samples (one upstream and one downstream) in the vicinity of the original site. All six of the repeat samples tested negative for total coliform. We do not believe that there was a problem in the system – our disinfectant residuals were within the norm, there were not any leaks in the area, our main line pressures were constant. We believe the positive results were the result of poor sampling technique by our sampler. Our routine samples from the middle of February also returned a negative result, reinforcing our conclusion that there is not a contamination problem.

For more information, please contact John L. Jones at 281-1666 or PO Box 2380, Tijeras, NM 87059

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

The Entranosa Water & Wastewater Association is sending this notice to you.

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Certified by: John L. Jones, Chief Operating Officer, Entranosa Water & Wastewater Association