

Entranosa Water News

May 30, 2008

Drought Watch. We continue to monitor, on a regular basis, the web sites that address drought issues. This past Tuesday, May 27th, the US Drought Monitor listed our region as “normal”, and on the cusp of the ‘increased drought’ line. Because of the cold wave and precipitation last week, the rest of State took a step back in the drought arena – but it will continue to intensify through June. The U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook of May 15th predicts some overall improvement in drought conditions through August, aided by a routine monsoon season.

Water Use. Our overall pumping this year is about the same as last year for the same period, with a slight decrease in the average residential usage. For May of this year, the average residential meter registered 7,300 gallons in May. The average residential usage for the same month in the past two years, was 10,910 gallons in 2006 and 7,410 in 2007.

Water Hardness. Our hardness at the office was 29 grains this morning, and it’ll stay there (plus or minus a few grains) throughout the summer. It will vary in different parts of the system, from 21 grains to 32 grains. We are now in ‘The Season’. All of our wells are back online and one of our better wells has improved its’ pumping characteristics (pumps more) after the maintenance.

Annual Meeting. The annual meeting will be held in late September this year.

Annual Consumer Confidence Report. We will issue the annual, EPA formatted, consumer confidence report, in late June. The report is mandated by the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1996 and contains information about the system and results of testing that we’ve conducted or that has been conducted by the New Mexico Environment Department.

Replacement Well. This past month we drilled a pilot hole for a replacement of one of our wells to provide additional capacity and reliability to the system. We found what we hoped to find, which was a good source of water. So that it doesn’t interfere with our other activities, we’ll return to the site in the fall of this year and turn that pilot hole into a production well.

Rates. The board of directors has contracted with an outside consultant to review our rate structure to validate what we’ve done in the past, and we hope to get some feed back in the next couple of weeks. Our biggest cost drivers are labor and electricity. We have good control over labor costs, but electricity is another issue. The power for our wells and main booster facilities is provided by Central New Mexico and, unlike PNM (until recently), they have the ability to adjust their rates without a hearing to balance their cost of power – that is not inappropriate for the business model, but the result to us is a 30% increase over last year for the same amount of power. That expense will need to be passed on (sorry), but the consultant report should pinpoint that.

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