

# Entranosa Water News

29 May 2009

**Drought Watch.** The latest report of the US Drought Monitor, from May 26<sup>th</sup>, shows our region as “normal”, which is an improvement brought by the recent rains. The U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook through August indicates ‘normal’ conditions with improvements throughout southern New Mexico. We anticipate a normal monsoonal season in early July.

**Water Use.** Our pumping this past month was about the same as last May, but residential usage is up. The average residential meter registered the use of approximately 7,800 gallons this past month. The average residential usage for May, in 2007, was 7,410 gallons and 7,288 gallons in 2008.

**Water Hardness.** Our average hardness has fluctuated a lot this month due to the varying demand (due to rain). Today, at the office, we found our test sample was about 23 grains, but it will vary throughout the system – ranging between 17 and 29 grains. We expect hardness to remain high until at least late August. As a reminder – a grain is equal to approximately 17.1 mg/liter.

**Automatic Drafts.** We offer automatic bank drafts as a service – it is safe, convenient, and free. We have two draft dates available, you’ll receive a ‘normal’ billing statement showing how much will be drafted, and the draft will appear on your monthly bank statement. You can cancel a draft by contacting our office at least three business days prior to the scheduled withdrawal date. We offer drafts on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. If you’d like additional information, call the office at 281-8700.

**Fences and Meter Placement.** **Please** take the location of the water main, and other underground utilities into consideration when planning a new fence – and **please** don’t run a new driveway over the meter can ...

**Annual Meeting.** The annual meeting will be held in late September or early October. The agenda will include some administrative changes to the bylaws (name change, to reflect our return to a cooperative form of organization), a vote to fill three vacancies on the board of directors (two three-year terms and one one-year term), and general information about the operations of the association. Please consider nominating yourself (or a willing neighbor) for the board – the qualifications are a little bit of time, a desire to serve the community, and some common sense. Nominations must be submitted no later than early August.

**Consumer Confidence Report.** Our annual report will be out in late June. Federal law requires us to publish information about the system and the results of lab tests that we’ve had conducted, or those conducted by the Environment Department. In quick summary – our water is HARD, but relatively pristine.

**Fire Season.** In spite of the recent rain – fire season is here. The Bernalillo County Fire Department, the Office of the Fire Marshall, and the Forest Service are sponsoring a meeting for east mountain residents to address emergency management and fire prevention. The meeting will be held on Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. at Los Vecinos Community Center and should last about 90 minutes – if you’d like to attend.

***CALL BEFORE YOU DIG – IT IS THE LAW 260-1990 or 811***

## *Be Good to Your Septic*

Everyone in the east mountain area, and everyone on the Entranosa water system, uses a septic system. Some of those systems are connected directly to a leach field, some are connected to an advanced treatment system and then to a leach field, and others are connected to a centralized collection system that feeds a centralized treatment process (constructed wetlands or a package plant). The common denominator is the septic tank – YOU have one. Be good to it. Know where it is located!

Legal things first – all septic tanks are required to be permitted by the State or County ... and in our experience, not all of them have a permit (for example – we’re told that at least half of the septic installations in eastern Bernalillo County are not permitted). If you don’t know if yours is permitted or not – look through your home owner papers, or check with the State or County.

The EPA has a Homeowners Guide to Septic Systems on their web site ([www.epa.gov/owm/septic/pubs/homeowner\\_guide\\_long.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/owm/septic/pubs/homeowner_guide_long.pdf)) that is helpful, and the NM Environment Department has a lot of reference material listed on their web site ([www.nmenv.state.nm.us/fod/LiquidWaste/ref.material.html](http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/fod/LiquidWaste/ref.material.html)). In lieu of those sites – use this:

<b>Reduce Sludge buildup &amp; Backup</b>	
Inspect your tank every three years and pump accordingly – suggested every three years, but it depends on usage	<b>Don’t</b> wait for signs of failure
Compost garbage or throw it away	<b>Don’t</b> use a garbage grinder
Dispose of grease in a can	<b>Don’t</b> put grease or oil down the drain
Use biodegradable soaps & detergents	<b>Don’t</b> over use bleach or soaps
<b>Reduce Water Use</b>	
Install low water use fixtures	<b>Don’t</b> flush the toilet unnecessarily
Use a water saving device in your toilet tank – one designed for that purpose	<b>Don’t</b> put a brick in your toilet tank – it can crumble, causing the tank to leak, or it could clog your septic system
Fix leaky faucets & toilets	<b>Don’t</b> overfill your bath tub
Load your washing machine and dish washer completely	<b>Don’t</b> empty roof drains or softener discharge into the septic
<b>Protect The Leaching System</b>	
Insist on proper location and construction of a leach system	<b>Don’t</b> build it under the drive way, or a patio. Don’t park heavy vehicles on the leaching system. They can crush the pipe or compact the soil adversely
Keep rooted trees and bushes away from the leaching system	<b>Don’t</b> plant a flower bed over the septic area
<b>Keep The Bacteria Working</b>	
Use caution in what goes down the drain. A good rule is normal household liquids & waste, as well as toilet paper. Only.	Don’t put pesticides, disinfectants, acids, medicines, paint, paint thinner, or other materials that will kill the bacteria in the tank
Use enzyme whiteners versus bleach	Don’t use bleach!