

# Entranosa Water News

30 April 2009

**Drought Watch.** We monitor, on a regular basis, the web sites that address drought issues and status. The latest report of the US Drought Monitor, from April 28<sup>th</sup>, shows our region as “abnormally dry” (the first stage of drought), and the same as last year. The U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook from April 16<sup>th</sup> indicates ‘normal’ conditions through July (the extent of the prediction), and (based on reports we’ve read) we anticipate a normal monsoonal season in early July.

**Water Use.** Our pumping this year is less than last year for the same period. The average residential meter registered the use of approximately 5,600 gallons. The average residential usage for April in 2007 was 5,257 gallons, and 6,920 gallons in 2008.

**Water Hardness.** Our average hardness has risen to 22 grains, but it will vary throughout the system due to pressure zones and flow. We’ve sampled hardness between 19 grains and 29 grains, and it will rise a little more (into the 25 to 30 range) in late May – and stay there until at least late August. As a reminder – a grain is equal to approximately 17.1 mg/liter.

**Swine Flu** There is a LOT of news on the airwaves about the flu alert – you can get authoritative information, without a sensationalist twist, on the web site for the Center for Disease Control ... [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu). You can also contact the NM Health Department Swine Flu Hotline at 1-866-850-5893 or review their latest information on their web site at [www.health.state.nm.us/FLU/seasonal/swine\\_flu.html](http://www.health.state.nm.us/FLU/seasonal/swine_flu.html)

**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.** Our community continues to grow, and fences are presenting themselves more prominently, occasionally with unintended consequences. PLEASE – do not construct your fence on top of the water main, or run the fence over a water meter can ... these are simply conflicts waiting to happen. Our meter cans have removable lids (so we can get into them), and our maintenance efforts are made, predictably, more difficult when a wire or pole fence covers the lid and we have to cut the fence. (We’ll spot our lines and mark meters for your convenience – just call). Some new driveways have become, surprisingly, an area of conflict as well, with about six new driveways being placed such that they encompass the previously existing water meter installation in the driving area – our meter installations do NOT have traffic lids and they will be damaged by a vehicle driving over them. Damages are chargeable to the member/customer. In some cases we can move the meter with a minimal charge to the member and customer – in others, where rock is involved – it can get expensive. We like to have about three feet of space around the meter can in which to work – thank you for your consideration.

***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!