

Entranosa Water News

January 29, 2010

Weather. After all that teasing – we finally got some snow. The past several weeks we've had a few calls of 'no water' due to freezing. When the temperatures drop below 20, consider opening a faucet to get a drip every five seconds or so – catch it in a bucket and use it for plants or pets. The moving water will reduce the likelihood of a freeze. PLEASE – don't use blow torches on the meter. Call us – we're pleased to help where we can, or help confirm the problem. Lastly - if you leave the garage door open, or open the lid to the meter can & remove the insulation – don't be surprised if you freeze up and develop a leak, or if the meter freezes (in this instance) and we bill you for a new meter.

Hardness. We are in the winter mode of operations now and hardness remains in the range of 10 to 14 grains, based on our tests this past week. For those who are metrically oriented - a grain is approximately 17.1 milligrams per liter. We anticipate remaining in this range through March.

January Consumption. Household demand remained relatively low this month, although our 'meter reading month was 34 days. The average household meter used 4,355 gallons this month, or 150 gallons per dwelling per day, about 9% less than January '09.

Board Meeting. The Board of Directors will hold its monthly meeting on the 4th Thursday in February at 6:15 p.m., weather permitting – the 25th. Should you wish to attend, please call to verify the date and so we can make proper arrangements.

Hydrant Vandals. A couple of weeks ago, Entranosa and three other community water systems (American/Edgewood, Thunder Mountain, and Moriarty) experienced the concentrated efforts of – politely put – vandals, who started opening fire hydrants in Edgewood, moved over to Thunder Mountain, moved up to us – and about three hours later, hit fire hydrants in Edgewood. There was some private property damage to one of our members, and some road damage in other cases. The water systems, excluding Moriarty, are offering a reward of \$3,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons involved.

Bottled Water

With 600 brands to choose from, bottled water now outsells soft drinks. SO - instead of buying a beverage made from a secret formula (like Coca-Cola), humans are spending \$100 billion annually, worldwide, to drink what pours from our own taps. Why? The answer can be illusive, but there is a perception that bottled water is simply 'better' than tap water. In some cases – it is – but at what cost?

In the article 'Who Owns the Water?', 'The Nation' predicts that in this century water will become as coveted as oil, and the price for water will rise to as much as \$5 per gallon in the United States. In many cases, even drinking water from the tap is already expensive, with filtered tap water costing as much as 23 cents per gallon. If movies such as 'Erin Brokovich' and 'A Civil Action' have convinced you that bottled water is **safer**, keep in mind that you might be drinking community tap water anyway -- the FDA permits companies to bottle and sell water that comes straight from the taps, but without the controls placed on that water by the EPA. Perhaps you're really paying for the bottle ... the Earth Policy Institute says it takes 1.5 million barrels of oil, annually, to produce the plastic containers for bottled water. Once empty, those plastic bottles are either disposed of in an incinerator, becoming airborne toxic trash that releases harmful byproducts, or they choke our landfills and don't decompose. In the United States today, we throw away 2.5 million plastic bottles **every hour**, and our landfills are closing at the rate of one per day because they are either full or they are leaking toxic materials into lakes, streams and groundwater.

Privatization of water - In April 2000, water prices in Cochabamba, Bolivia led to a fatal uprising against Bechtel and other western corporations who owned the city's water supply, while in 2005, the Beverly Hills company, Bling H2O, introduced it's limited edition spring water that sold for \$34 a liter and it has become a Hollywood signature.

We offer to serve you 1,000 gallons of drinking water for \$3.78 ...