

# Entranosa Water News

January 30, 2012

**Paying Your Bill. Options:** For a fee of \$3.00 pay by Credit Card or E-Check, online at [www.entranosawater.com](http://www.entranosawater.com); or phone (855) 530-0592. (You may also view your account via web or phone) Auto draft – no fee; Mail, or drop off at our office. All payments must reach our office by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month in order to avoid a penalty or late fee.

**Hardness.** We remain in the range of 12 to 16 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 unless there is a big change in the weather.

**January Consumption.** Residential demand this month was relatively low ... just over 4200, In January 2011, usage was 4,550 gallons and it was 4,400 gallons in 2010..

**Board Meeting.** The Board of Directors will hold its monthly meeting on the 3rd Thursday in February at 6:15 p.m., weather permitting – the 16<sup>th</sup>. Should you wish to attend, please call to verify the date and so we can make proper arrangements.

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

President	Steve Beffort
Vice President	Rik Thompson
Treasurer	Lee Liggett
Secretary	Steve Hicks

**Household Water Pressure and Cross Contamination.** *(we run this every year at this time, but it bears reiterating).* The large majority of our service installations are in a high pressure area. We've installed a pressure reducing valve (PRV) on our service installations in areas with more than 50 psi, and every service installation has a backflow prevention unit (a check valve) incorporated into it. The PRV regulates the pressure from the system to your property and prevents pressure spikes that may be generated by the water system (valves being opened and closed, hydrants slamming shut, or pumps coming on and off) from causing damage to your service line or your home; the check valve protects the water system from contamination that may occur in your home. ***The check valve allows water to enter your home but not backflow into the main system, and it effectively creates an isolated pressure environment in your home. The plumbing code, since 1997, has required the installation of a small expansion tank in household systems (or other devices that relieve pressure), to diminish the affects of transient high pressure in your home that is created by heat generating devices (hot water heaters, boilers) that you may utilize. In homes without such a device, we have seen instances where household pressure ranges 40 psi above the 'norm', which can cause some damage to your plumbing or appliances.*** We encourage you to assess the needs of your home and consult a licensed plumber, if necessary. If you have symptoms of high pressure (leaky toilets, hot water heater valve popping, etc), **please give us a call** – we'll be pleased to check it for you. No charge.

## **Sandia Laboratory Federal Credit Union**

Entranosa Water is a member of the SLFCU and the financial services and benefits of this credit union are available to our members – you – should you choose to utilize them.

## *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. Our management program covers this
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
Check your screen on the discharge side of your tank at least every six months.	Don't allow this to plug up – it happens.
<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!

**Call Before You Dig – 811 – It is the Smart Thing to Do and ...  
It is the Law**