

# Valve Exercising Time

By Randy Hellbusch, Circuit Rider

Well, old man winter is having a hard time letting go this year. The NeRWA crew is anxious to get out and get some of the outdoor work requests completed. A big part of that is the valve exercising machine. We have gotten a start on systems on the list.



Staffing and time restraints do somewhat limit our ability to dedicate someone to do the valve exercising full time. Having said that, valve exercising is a big priority for us. If you are on the list, we will be contacting you in advance to be sure that all valve boxes are cleaned and the valves are accessible. We can get through approximately 50 valves a day or more if this has been done and everything goes well.

We have several systems on the list that have had their valves exercised in the past couple of years. Our main priority at this point is to assist systems that have not used the valve exerciser in the past or that have not used it for several years.

If you have not taken advantage of the valve exercising machine, I encourage you to get on board and give us a call. The machine can give you a lot of information on the condition of your valves. It will tell exactly how many turns it takes to close the valve. We have had several incidences where the system thought they knew the size of the main, but found out that it is either larger or smaller than they thought. The exerciser also shows the maximum amount of torque needed to operate the valve. Often times we find valves that cannot be turned by hand. After exercising them, they operated with ease. Another aspect of valve exercising is that we have found valves in systems that are actually closed or only partially open and no one knows it.



If valve exercising is something that you think would benefit your water system, or for that matter, sewer system, let us know. We would be happy to bring the machine out and make your life easier.