

Keep Your Stenner Pump Running Like New By Russ Topp, Circuit Rider

As one of the Circuit Riders for the Nebraska Rural Water Association, I have worked with a lot of water operators throughout the state. We offer technical assistance in numerous ways. Often there are requests from operators to stop by when we are in the area. Then there are requests from operators that are in panic mode. Normally that happens late in the week. They go to the clerk's office to get their mail and, you guessed it, there's a letter from the Department of Health informing them that they have a positive coliform sample. This letter is usually accompanied by a box of initial repeat samples. That's when we get the panic call. No need to panic yet. You don't really have a problem until you take the initial repeats and have one or more of these tests come back positive.

The second positive sample for a small water system in a monitoring period produces a violation for bacteria. Now it's time to panic! Not really, it's time to make an informed decision as to what step to take next. Be aware! The following month you will be required to take up to four extra samples depending on the size of your system. Typically most operators elect to chlorinate for a period of time to disinfect the system and help insure good samples the following month.

As you may recall in 2011, the Nebraska Rural Water Association and the Nebraska Department of Health held classes all over Nebraska training water operators how to set up and use a chlorinator, as well as, how to use a chlorine residual kit. By attending the class you received a free chlorine pump and chlorine residual kit. If everything has been running smoothly the chlorine pump is still in the box at the shop collecting dust. Not everyone has been that lucky. If you are one of the unlucky operators that had to use your pump, there are some wear items you may need to check.

With extended use the Stenner chlorine pumps may need a little maintenance. The squeeze tube may need to be replaced. These tubes will usually last around six months if used continually before they need to be replaced. Sometimes the end of these tubes will disintegrate and need replacing. Changing the size of these tubes will also change the output of the pump. If the chlorine pump is too small or too large for your application you can simply change the size of the tube to fit your needs. Another wear item is the "cam." If the pump clicks several times before it locks in and turns, the "cam" is probably getting worn. It's an easy fix and the "cam" is very inexpensive, as are most of the repair parts. One other item to keep an eye on is the "duck bill" in the injector. The injector is the fitting that screws into the piping. It is easy to check. Just disconnect the tube from the injector. If water sprays out or even drips out, the "duck bill" needs to be replaced in the injector.

If your Stenner pump is not working properly give us a call. We can come out to your system and have that thing running like new in no time.