

Issue 2/2009

Nebraska Rural Water Association



NEBRASKA GOOD WATER NEWS



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SAFETY GLASSES



FLOW METERS



PIPE FITTINGS



SEWAGE PUMPS



SWING CHECK VALVES



MARKING PAINT



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“Nebraska Good Water News” is a quarterly publication of the NEBRASKA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION, 3390 Ponderosa, Wahoo, Nebraska 68066. Phone 1-800-842-8039 or (402) 443-5216 or FAX (402) 443-5274. Copies are mailed to all member rural and municipal water operators, Federal and State Legislators, associates and individual members.

The NEBRASKA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION is dedicated to the improvement and assistance of all public water systems in the State of Nebraska.

NOTICE: Nebraska Rural Water Association does not endorse any particular product or company in this publication. Membership and advertising should not be taken as an endorsement.

Website: www.nerwa.org

On the cover:

Water tower for Red Cloud, Nebraska

How'd We Do and Letters From...

Regular Council Meetings
Second Thursday of Each Month
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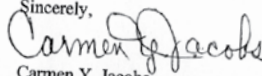
FEBRUARY 17, 2009

NEBRASKA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION
3390 PONDEROSA DRIVE
WAHOO, NE 68066

We would like to extend a big "THANK YOU" to Nebraska Rural Water Association for the many services you provide to the communities in Nebraska. A special thank you to Randy Hellbusch for doing the review of our water and sewer rates and to Russ Topp for assisting the City guys on numerous occasions.

In appreciation for your great service, please apply the enclosed check to the Equipment Fund.

Sincerely,


Carmen Y. Jacobs
Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer

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www.springview-ne.com

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Fax: 402-497-2902
patscook@threeriver.net

April 9, 2009

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa Drive
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear RWA,

Enclosed is our donation to help defray the costs of bringing your camera to scope our sewer main. We appreciate all you do for our community and hope you continue to offer your service and support.

Thanks again,

The Village of Springview

Village of Big Springs

Phone (308) 889-3324 Fax (308) 889-3161
PO Box 132 / 403 Pine Street
Big Springs NE 69122

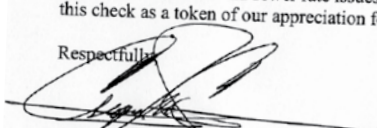
March 2, 2009

Nebraska Rural Water Assn.
Attn: Randy Hellbusch
3390 Ponderosa
Wahoo NE 68066

Dear Randy:

The Village of Big Springs would like to extend a big thank you for your help over the years with our water and sewer rate issues. Your help has been invaluable. Please accept this check as a token of our appreciation for all you do.

Respectfully,


Gregg McGreer
Chairman

February 4, 2009

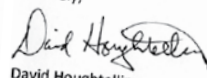
NEBRASKA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION
3390 Ponderosa Street
Wahoo, NE. 68066

Rural Water Staff,

Just wanted to send a little Equipment Fund check and let you know we appreciate all the help we receive from staff members at Rural Water. We noticed the new valve exerciser that was purchased and think that you are being very productive with the equipment you offer to small communities.

Once again thank you for all you do!

Sincerely,


David Houghtelling
Utility Supervisor

nebraska
cambridge
Life is good!

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722 Patterson Street
Cambridge, NE 69022
voice: (308) 897-3711
fax: (308) 697-3253
e-mail: kkinne@twnebr.net

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Gary Benson
Derek Raburn
Jo Fuller
JP Trumble
Clint Wickizer
David Houghtelling,
Utility Supervisor
Kandra Kinne,
City Clerk/Treasurer



January 30, 2009

Ransy Hellbush
Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa Drive
Wahoo, Nebraska 68066

Dear Randy:

Just a note to share our thanks for your assistance in the water/sewer rate study.

For your information, I am attaching a copy of a resolution, passed at a special meeting on December 22nd, 2008, which defines the rates we will be implementing March 1, 2009. In the first week of January, 2009, we sent a letter to all customers, advising them of the rate adjustments. A copy of that item is also attached. Amazingly, we have not had one call to complain about the increase. I assume that will change when people get their bill, but, so far so good. ☺

Thanks again, Randy, for all your help.

Respectfully,

Robert D. Peters,
City Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer

VILLAGE OF WILCOX

P.O. Box 88
Wilcox, NE 68982

Phone: 308-478-5510

Fax: 308-478-5827

January 7, 2009

Nebraska Rural Water Assn.
3390 Ponderosa St.
Wahoo, NE 68066

Enclosed you will find our membership dues for the Village of Wilcox. You will also find a check for a donation. The Village Board and Employees would like to thank you for all you have done for us and helping us through our big water project. We appreciate all the help you've given us from finding locates, evaluating our water rates, to helping us complete our vulnerability assessment.

Again, thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Wilcox Village Board of Trustees



VILLAGE OF CAIRO

Susan Kluthe, Clerk
P.O. Box 456 • Cairo, NE 68824 • Phone (308) 485-4400 • Fax (308) 485-4400

March 2, 2009

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear Rural Water Association,

The Village of Cairo would like to thank you again for all the help you have given us in the past with our water and sewer issues. A special thanks to Jim Heyen for filming our sewer system and finding the cause of our problems. Your help and expertise is greatly appreciated.

Please accept the enclosed donation to help fund and to continue the many services you provide to communities like ours.

Sincerely,

Susan Kluthe
Clerk/Treasurer

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March 25, 2009

Mike Stanzel
Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa Street
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear Mike,

Just a note to let you know what is going on out here. The test you performed the day you were here came back. Well house showed a little coliform. We all could taste the Clorox – some real bad.

Since then I was requested to take 5 random samples from the area. This time I let the water run longer and used your technique in sterilizing the faucets. You can't believe it – all came back zero!! I want to thank you for your valuable assistance in helping us out of a jam.

Thanks again,
Larry

DC Rally



Pictured L to R: Gregg Bouc, Larry Winnenkamp, Tom Goulette, Congressman Adrian Smith, Randy Hellbusch. Representatives from Nebraska Rural Water Association attended the annual National Rural Water Rally in Washington D.C. on April 20th and 21st. The group heard from top Administrators from E.P.A. and U.S.D.A. as well as legislative personnel. Information was presented on topics such as the Stimulus initiatives, Water and Wastewater Grants and Loans, Source Water programs, Current and Future funding levels for Water and Wastewater programs. The group then visited with each of the Congressional Delegates from Nebraska. I am pleased to report that all of our Nebraska Senators and Congressmen are extremely supportive of NeRWA. Some mentioned hearing of our work from our member systems. This is a great tribute to our members. Thank you for your support. It is greatly appreciated. The Future looks bright for NeRWA Programs, despite the tough economic conditions. We all need to continue to work together and make sure our story is heard.

TRAINING FOR 2009

Water Operator Training

May 6	Sidney
May 7	Kenesaw
June 5	Sutton
June 10	Norfolk- Rule Managers
July 7	Hay Springs
July 8	Mullen
July 9	Spalding
August 5	Kearney- Rule Managers
October 27	Eustis
October 28	Red Cloud
October 29	Beatrice- Rule Managers
December 8	Hartington
December 9	Wahoo
December 10	Johnson

Wastewater Training

May 5	Newcastle
July 9	Wahoo
September 24	Denton
October 14	Wahoo
October 21	Alda
November 18	Creighton
December 8	Wahoo

Backflow Re-Certification Training

May 5	Atkinson
May 7	Beatrice
September 9	McCool Junction
November 17	Broken Bow
November 19	Valentine
December 15	Mitchell
December 16	Imperial
December 17	Cambridge

Grade 6 Backflow Prevention Cross-Connection Control Course - 5 Day

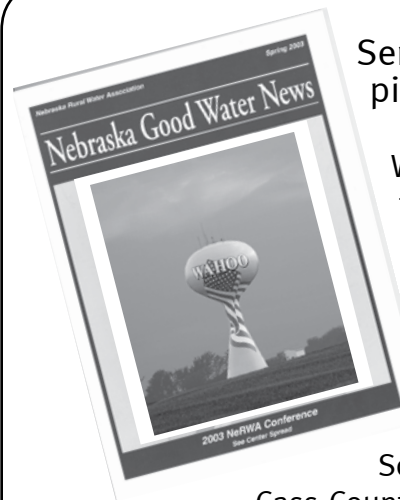
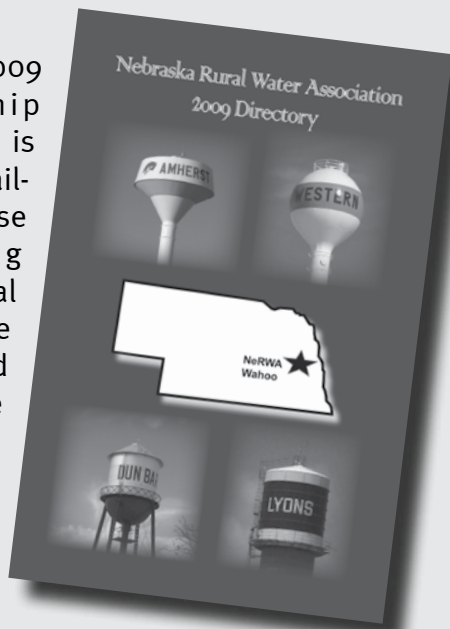
October 19-23 Wahoo

September 9	Trenching & Excavation Safety	Wahoo
September 10	Confined Space Entry	Wahoo

Sept 1-3	Fall Conference	Gering
Sept 30	Utility EXPO	Fremont

NeRWA's 2009 Membership Directory is now available. All those attending the annual conference received one. We are mailing them out to those who did not attend the conference.

If you did not receive one and would like one, please contact our office at 800-842-8039 or office@nerwa.org.



Send us your pictures!!!

We would like to put the water towers of Nebraska on our cover. We want to feature a different tower on each issue.

So far we have had Cass County RWD1, Louisville, Bloomfield, Litchfield, Columbus, Logan East RW, Papiio-MO Dakota County, and Wahoo.

Let us add your name to our list and see how long it gets. Either send a photo to our office or e-mail a picture to our website.

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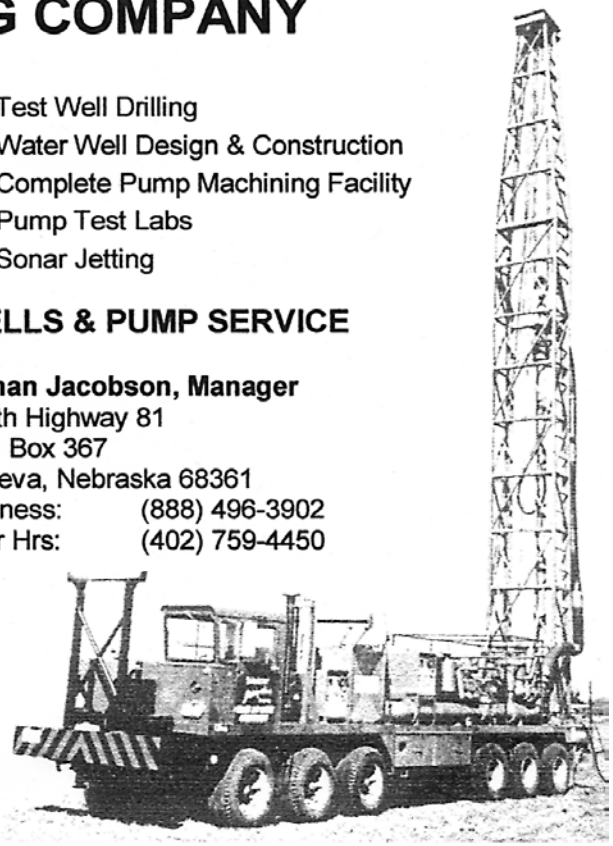
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The Ins and Outs of GIS/GPS Mapping

By Charles Bausch, GIS Specialist

Well, another spring conference has come and gone and now the weather is changing from possible snow to sunny skies. Now is the time to start thinking about locating those water and wastewater features for summer projects or for those other occasions we all don't want to think about. Just think how nice it would be not to have to go through all those files and maps that you have to find that one valve or that one curbstop that may or may not be there. This is where GIS/GPS mapping can be helpful.

GPS will give you the location of all your features in your water and wastewater system. To mark these features we do have to locate them first. If you have problems finding some of your features, Russ or Randy can assist you with locating these. Once these features are GPS'd we post process all our data to get sub-foot accuracy from our data collection.

Now that your data is on a map we connect the points by drawing in your main lines. However, if you know where your main lines run, we can take GPS data points along those lines and lay them into your map. If you don't know where your mains are at we can still draw them in.

Once we draw your map for you we print off a rough draft for you to review. After the review we correct any misinformation found on your maps because Nebraska Rural Water understands that an incorrect map is just as good as having no map at all.

Once the project is complete we produce wall maps, map books and interactive maps on the computer. This is where all that information you have collected comes in. All that data you have on customers, manholes, valve

info, and meter info can be integrated right into your map. By using simple programs like Excel you can put as much info in about your features that you would find useful. Once you have all that info in Excel you can send that file to me and I can join that info to your map. Now you have all that info in one location just a few clicks away.

Whenever you need to update your information about your features just make the changes in the Excel file and send it again to me. Once the new data is uploaded to your map we'll send you your new map for your computer viewer software. Now the computer map has all the latest information about your system ready to be pulled back out when needed.

If you would like to hear more about GIS/GPS mapping feel free to contact me.

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Association News and Updates – Spring 2009

By Salli Kemerling, Office Manager

The NeRWA Annual Conference was held March 16, 17, and 18 in Columbus. We received a lot of feedback from attendees during and after the conference. Quite a few people mentioned that they enjoyed the food and meals. Overall, most of the comments about the conference were positive. We will continue to work hard to make the conference even better next year. As always, feel free to share your ideas and opinions with us.

HD Supply and Olsson Associates sponsored the Monday evening social hour and many thanks to them. Numerous exhibitors made donations to offset conference expenses – Bartlett and West, Engineering America, HTM, Sargent Drilling, Utility Service Co., Maguire Iron, Miller and Associates, Technical Maintenance, Ford Meter and JEO Consulting. The generosity of these exhibitors helps NeRWA keep the conference more affordable for small systems.

There were 42 conference sessions to choose from with topics good for water, wastewater and backflow CEU's. Hopefully you found some new subjects to enjoy and had the chance to refresh your memory about familiar topics too. Many thanks to all of the speakers who shared their knowledge with us.

On Tuesday evening, Operator of the Year Awards were presented to Lyle Petz, Village of Beemer, and Dick McCabe, Village of Emerson. Congratulations to Lyle and Dick for this accomplishment! The winner of the Water Contest was announced as the City of Aurora and a plaque was presented to Eric Melcher. Aurora provided a water sample for the National Best Tasting Water Contest that was held on April 21 in Washington, DC.

The raffle prizes were won by: Browning shotgun – Jim Helgoth, Clarks; Black powder rifle – Tom Houser, Bruning; LCD TV – Bill Goodpasture, SID 1, Norfolk; tool set – Jeff Carlson, Central City; hunting knife – Kevin Finnegan, Sutton; Dremel – Darwin Buss, Adams; Craftsman saw – Ron Helmlinger, McCool Junction; GPS – Lyle Juracek, Neligh; fishing equipment – Butch Long, Fairmont; digital picture frame – Don Pospichal, Clarkson; manhole lifter – Butch Long, Fairmont; stuffed dogs – Ken Halvorsen, Otoe RWD 3.

Last year the NeRWA Board of Directors accepted a proposal to keep the conference in Columbus for three more years. Next year's conference will be held March 15, 16, & 17. We hope that you will join us!

With the Spring Conference wrapped up, we now look

ahead to the Fall Conference in Gering on September 1 & 2 and the Utility Expo in Fremont on September 30 at Christensen Field. Watch in our next magazine for more complete details and agendas on these events.

National Rural Water Association is holding its first Expo in partnership with the Association of Equipment Manufacturers. The Expo will be held in Louisville, Kentucky, on October 6-8, 2009.

Remember that there is a lot of information on our website. Below is a copy of our home page. It's very user-friendly. Here are some of the ways to utilize it:

- Training for upcoming year
- Information on conferences and Expo
- Online registration
- Membership information
- Links to state and national websites
- Download forms such as backflow brochures, cross connection survey, backflow test forms
- Job postings across the state
- Special events

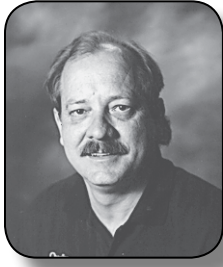
If you have any questions or need any assistance with our website, just call our office and we will be glad to help you.

20 Conferen



2009 Event Photos





NeWARN

Nebraska Water & Wastewater Agency Response Network

By Randy Hellbusch, Circuit Rider

Nebraska Rural Water Association is committed to helping all water and wastewater systems in any way we are able. There are, however, steps systems can take to help themselves. I feel one of the best ways a system can help itself is to join NeWARN. NeWARN, for any of you who may have not yet heard, is a statewide network of utilities committed to assisting each other in times of need. It is a great tool to provide a method whereby water/wastewater utilities that have sustained damages from natural or manmade events could obtain emergency assistance in the form of personnel, equipment, materials, and other associated services as necessary, from other water/wastewater utilities. The objective is to provide rapid, short-term deployment of emergency services to restore the critical operations of the effected utility.

A pre-established agreement among a network of utilities can complement and enhance local capabilities to prepare for and respond to a broad range of threats, both natural and man-made. The establishment of an

intrastate mutual aid and assistance network is a core principle of the National Preparedness Goal developed by the Department of Homeland Security.

Formalizing the existing capability to provide mutual aid and assistance provides the water/wastewater sector with a degree of resiliency against a natural or manmade disaster to ensure continuity of services to our customers.

To date, 43 systems have signed the formal agreement to join NeWARN. Is your system one of them? If not, I encourage you to get your board or council to approve and sign the agreement as soon as possible and get on board. The agreement can be found by clicking on the NeWARN Logo at nerwa.org or give us a call at 1-800-842-8039 and we will send you one. **THERE IS NO COST OR OBLIGATION!** Sooner or later, we all need a little extra help from our neighbors.

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Louisville has something for every age and interest. Discover the history of the city's beginnings on the Ohio River, the traditions of the Kentucky Derby or the makings of the legendary Louisville Slugger. London's Royal Armouries are on display at their only location outside of England, the Frazier International History Museum. The life and ideals of Muhammad Ali can be explored at a magnificent center in his hometown. Visit the "Urban Bourbon Trail," where you can raise a glass at six of the world's best-stocked and most-celebrated whiskey bars. Or take a short drive to one of Bourbon Country's famous distilleries.

Spectator sports include a Triple A baseball team at Louisville Slugger Field and the University of Louisville Cardinals. Live Thoroughbred racing is offered at Churchill Downs in the spring and fall, and simulcast wagering is offered year-round.

Louisville is also an art city. The Speed Art Museum, Kentucky Museum of Art & Craft and the new 21C Museum Hotel offer permanent and changing exhibits. Galleries abound with monthly "trolley hops" to showcase exhibits. Blown glass is a popular medium with two downtown studios.

The list of must-see attractions goes on and on, from baby animals at the zoo to unique museums and historic homes. We think you'll agree that Louisville has something for everyone!

Fun Facts About Louisville

- Tourism is the State's second largest private employer.
- Louisville International Airport offers 12 carriers with an average of 100 daily departures.
- There are 1,300 animals at the 134-acre Louisville Zoo.
- The largest collection of Victorian homes in the United State's is located in Old Louisville.
- American Printing House for the Blind is the largest printer of Braille material in the world.
- 17 tons of Kentucky limestone makes up the baseball glove inside the Louisville Slugger Museum.
- 95% of the world's bourbon is produced in Kentucky.
- The Belle of Louisville is the oldest operating Mississippi-style sternwheeler steamboat in existence.
- There are 2,500 restaurants in Louisville.
- The replica of Babe Ruth's 34-inch Louisville Slugger bat weighs 68,000 pounds, is made of steel, stands 120 feet tall and is located at Louisville Slugger Museum.

Getting To Louisville and the Galt House Hotel

Louisville International Airport is only 7 miles from the Galt House. The airport shuttle operates daily. Located in the hotel lobby, Sand Dollar Limousine & Shuttle Service provides transportation to and from the airport for \$25 round-trip and \$15 one-way. Call 502-561-4022 or online at www.sandollarlimo.com.

Approximate cost of a taxi from the airport is \$26.
The Hotel has self-parking, \$12 per day or valet parking, \$18 per day.

The Galt Hotel is just minutes from the fairgrounds exposition center with shuttle busses running all day.



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Decoding Terminology

By Jim Heyen, Wastewater Technician

Okay, visualize this picture: I was sitting at home, king of the remote (with the boys grown & gone), enjoying the plethora of March Madness basketball games and of course flipping back & forth between the Home & Garden channel to appease the wife and reading the Water Environment & Technology magazine and found the perfect inspiration for this issues article. I can be quite the multi-tasker when I want to be!

After 26 years of marriage, I have become pretty good at decoding terminology whether it be wife related or work related! The magazine article didn't help me out with the domestic part but did have an interesting article on decoding nitrogen terminology.

Decoding Nitrogen Terminology

Discharge permits regulate various forms of nitrogen base on the environmental concern related to the specific form. The nitrogen's form dictates how it affects water quality, as the points below show:

- Ammonia and organic nitrogen can result in oxygen depletion in receiving waters, but nitrate does not.
- Ammonia, specifically un-ionized ammonia, can cause aquatic toxicity.
- Nitrite can cause methemoglobinemia (blue baby syndrome), but nitrate is often regulated because it is more prevalent in effluent discharges and can be converted to nitrate in the human digestive system.
- Organic nitrogen can be oxidized progressively by different microorganisms to produce all forms of nitrogen and cause a wide range of environmental impacts.

Multiple environmental impacts might be a concern for some discharges, resulting in permit limits for total nitrogen, total inorganic nitrogen, and other forms.

Knowing the relationships among various forms of nitrogen helps explain the basis for our permit limits, understand the treatment processes used to achieve those limits, and interpret the data for process control and compliance. The table below lists symbols, names and components of the various classification of nitrogen.

Nitrogen Terms and Definitions

Acronym/Symbol	Name	Component
NH3-N or NH4+-N	Ammonia-nitrogen	Ammonia-nitrogen
NO3-N	Nitrate-nitrogen	Nitrate-nitrogen
NO2-N	Nitrite-nitrogen	Nitrite-nitrogen
Organic N	Organic nitrogen	Organic nitrogen
TKN	Total Kjeldahl nitrogen	Sum of: Organic nitrogen Ammonia-nitrogen
TIN	Total Inorganic nitrogen	Sum of: Ammonia-N Nitrate-N Nitrite-N
TON	Total oxidized nitrogen	Sum of Nitrate-N Nitrite-N
TN	Total Nitrogen	Sum of: Ammonia-N Nitrate-N Nitrite-N Organic N

The Nitrogen Map shows the same information graphically.

Nitrogen Map

Total Nitrogen (TN)*

Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN)	Total oxidized nitrogen (TON)		
Organic N	(NH3-N	NO2-N	NO3-N)
	(Total inorganic nitrogen (TIN))		

*Organic N = TKN - NH3-N.

TIN = NH3-N + NO2-N + NO3-N.

Once the differences among types of nitrogen are known, it's equally important to know which analytical method will yield the desired result.

As always, you know you can give me a call with any questions or concerns about figuring your permit for the nitrogen components or even to offer an old dog a new trick on staying out of the doghouse with the Mrs!

April 2009, Water Environment & Technology: pages 58-59.
Author: Woodie Mark Muirhead and Keith Chapman



Preparing For Your Sanitary Survey

By Mike Stanzel, Deputy Circuit Rider

If you currently operate a community water system or a non-transient, non-community water system you can expect to get a sanitary survey inspection every three years. Those who operate a non-community water system will get one every five years. Some operators may dread these visits, but most welcome the opportunity to sit down and get some questions answered or tips on improving their day-to-day operations.

There are several things you can do to make your system inspection go smoother. Take some time to walk around and inspect your system prior to the field representative's arrival. Basic cleanliness goes a long way. That pile of greasy rags that has been laying in the corner of your well house for two and half years has got to go. Also, make sure if something is broken to get it fixed. If you have a pressure gauge that's older than you are and hasn't worked since you've been there, buy a new one and get it installed. It only takes a short time to install and every field rep will write you up for improper maintenance.

The next item that almost every operator gets written up on is not having a proper screen on the blow off on the well, the overflow pipe on your tower, or standpipe. If your piping in the well house is very rusty, get a good quality metal paint and spruce up the piping and valves. Check through your records and find out the last time your tower/storage facility was inspected. The state requires this to be done every five years. If you are close or it's been longer than five years since your last inspection, start making some phone calls to schedule an inspection.

They are also going to check to see if you have been doing your draw down readings. These readings are required once per month from May 1 through September 30 and once every three months from October 1 through April 30. If you have not been doing these or do not know how to perform these, call one of us at NeRWA and we will be happy to assist you.

One item that is easily overlooked is the yearly cross connection/backflow public education flyer. These are required to be distributed to each consumer, or smaller systems can post in a prominent place. Make sure you keep a dated copy and put it in your file for inspection. Along these lines you are also required to do a cross connection control survey every five years. There are several different forms that are approved by the state. This

is a rather lengthy process especially for larger systems as the state requires a 100% response on these.

To help your survey go smoothly try to get all your paperwork and records in one place. This eliminates having to run all over town i.e. city hall, water plant, well house, tower etc.

If you do get a Section A violation, you have 45 days to respond in writing how you plan to correct your deficiencies. **Starting December 1, 2009 you will have 30 days to respond.** My primary job is providing assistance with sanitary surveys. If you need assistance call me or Scott Sprague at 402-471-0088 to be put on the state's 2% priority list. This will make you eligible for assistance free of charge.

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I'm Stimulated

By Barney Whatley, Capacity Development Specialist

With the passage and signing of the Stimulus Bill and its emphasis on infrastructure repair and rebuilding, many Nebraska communities are in line to receive funding for water and wastewater improvement projects. Since the object of the Stimulus Bill is to stimulate the economy and it is designed at doing this in a short period of time, the projects that are lined up to receive funding from this source are now on the fast track to get funded and have the work commence. A result of this is that many systems are scrambling to get the engineering completed so that the projects are ready to begin as soon as possible.

One of the aspects of the Capacity Development Strategy for the State of Nebraska is measuring the success of the program. This is being accomplished by completing financial and managerial assessments of systems receiving funding for water improvement projects prior to the beginning of the project. Two or three years after

the project has been completed, a follow-up assessment is completed to determine if the capacity of the system has been improved by the project. It is expected that the follow-up assessment will show a marked improvement in the system's capacity to operate as a viable business, and these results can be reported to the funding agencies to show that the dollars spent on Nebraska water systems are helping the systems to achieve financial and managerial capacity.

As part of the contract the Nebraska Rural Water Association has with the State of Nebraska, I have been very busy completing initial assessments for the communities receiving Stimulus funding for their projects. The assessment usually involves the water operator and the clerk, and generally takes one to two hours to complete. Occasionally the auditor needs to be contacted to complete a few of the questions, but that is the exception rather than the rule. Once the assessment has been completed, it is typed up and mailed to the system to verify the responses are correct. The assessment is then filed until the follow-up assessment can be completed one or two years after the project has been finished.

I have had the chance to complete some of the follow-up assessments for communities that received funding in the past several years. It is nice to report to the Town Boards on the results of the two assessments, showing them the improvements their community has made and restating suggestions for improvements that have not yet been adopted. The results imply to me that Nebraska systems are making good use of the funding they receive and are becoming more businesslike in their operations.

Systems do not have to be receiving funding to have an assessment completed. Any system requesting an assessment will receive one as time permits. When the assessment is completed, it can be presented to the system owner with suggestions on ways to improve the capacity of the system. Systems should keep in mind that these are **only** suggestions and are in no way mandatory for the systems to adopt. If you would like an assessment completed on your system, call the NeRWA office to set up an appointment to have one completed.

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New Valve Exerciser

By Russ Topp, Circuit Rider

You know, I think my Grandpa was right when he said, "the older you get the faster the years go by". Another Spring Conference has come and gone. It was good seeing all of the familiar faces again this year and meeting some new operators as well. I hope you learned something new and had a chance to visit all the vendors. As you were visiting the vendors hopefully you made it to the old restaurant area and had a chance to see our new valve exerciser. We had a sign up sheet there for anyone interested in having their valves exercised. Several systems signed up so I know at least some of you made it there. This exerciser was purchased solely with the generous donations given by you, our membership.



I'm sure the best weather we have had all spring was while we were at the conference. It was hard staying inside and attending the classes. It seems that ever since the conference if it's not been snowing, the wind has been blowing 40 miles per hour. Even with the poor weather we have had so far this spring, we have had a chance to get to a couple of systems to try out our new exerciser.



Randy and I took the valve exerciser for its maiden voyage shortly after the conference to the Village of Milligan. John Zelenka, the Water Operator for the Village, wanted all of the

valves in the system exercised. We exercised 29 valves for him. All the valves turned easily except for three. With the use of the exerciser we were able to exercise these three valves open and shut several times and after a short time we had these valves turning with ease.

Lonnie Petrzilka, the Water Operator for the Village of Denton, wanted four valves exercised in his system. Lonnie said all of his valves in his system turned easily except for these four problem valves. These valves turned easy until

about half way shut, and then it was a back breaker to get them any further even with cheater bars. With the use of the exerciser, we were able to turn these valves open and shut repeatedly until we were satisfied they closed completely. We were able to get six more turns out of one valve, four more turns out of another valve, and a couple of turns out of the other two.

Valve exercising can be a back breaking job, and after a few valves it's easy to find something else to do for the rest of the day. It seems valve exercising usually only happens under emergency conditions, during a main break, or trying to shut down a leak. With the use of our new valve exerciser a lot of the work is taken out of this task.

If you would like to exercise all of the valves in your system, or just have a few problem valves, give us a call. As soon as the weather breaks I'm sure we will want to keep it busy.

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