

Nebraska Good Water News



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Nebraska Good Water News

Issue 3/2015

Board of Directors

"Keeping Our Water Safe"

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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.

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Website: www.nerwa.org

On the cover:

Cairo Water Tower.

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How'd We Do and Letters From...

VILLAGE OF DORCHESTER

701 Washington Ave., PO Box 287 | Dorchester, NE 68343 Phone: 402-946-3201 | Fax: 402-946-3571 | dorchester@diodecom.net



Best Regards,

Village Clerk - Treasurer

May 15, 2015

Nebraska Rural Water Association 3390 Ponderosa Drive Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear NeRWA staff,

The Village of Dorchester Board of Trustees and employees would like to extend our sincere appreciation to Nebraska Rural Water Association for the many services you provide to our community. Your organization is always willing to share your knowledge and provides prompt service so that our utilities continue to run smoothly.

Your ongoing efforts to manage and promote safe, clean water for the citizens of Nebraska are commended. Please accept our donation of \$500.00 to continue in your cause.



Keep **Fremont** Beautiful

1005 N. Clarkson St. • Fremont, NE 68025 • (402) 941-6122 • keepfremontbeautiful@gmall.com

April 29, 2015

Barney Whatley – NE Rural Water 3390 Ponderosa Street Wahoo, Nebraska 68066

Dear Barney,

Thank you so much for presenting "Source Water Protection" information at the Eco-Fair. It's great having someone with your experience and dedication interacting with the students (and adults) year after year! We appreciate your expertise and willingness to serve!

Mark your 2016 calendar - next year's Eco Fair is scheduled on April 21, 2016. We hope that you will be available to assist.

Thank you for all you do to Keep Fremont Beautiful!

Your perspective Sincerely,

Cathi L. Sampson

KFB Assistant Program Director

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NERWA

CITY OF GORDON

311 North Oak Street 311 North Oak Street PO Box 310 Gordon, NE 69343-0310 Phone: (308) 282-0837 Fax: (308) 282-1431 E-mail: gordon@gpcom.net

Fred Hlava City Clerk Kim Buchan Deputy Clerk Glen Spaugh City Council Nancy I Russell, Mayor Jane Morgan, Vice-Mayor Tom Evans Tim Bounous Kelly Grant

April 30, 2015

Nebraska Rural Water Association 3390 Ponderosa Drive Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear NE Rural Water Association:

On behalf of the City of Gordon, I would like to personally thank you for all of the time and work you have dedicated to our city and to the surrounding communities. The Nebraska Rural Water Association is valuable asset to all of the cities in our area. Most recently, I had the pleasure of working with Randy Hellbusch, as he completed a water rate increase survey for the City of Gordon. The knowledge and experience Mr. Hellbusch and the association provided was greatly appreciated.

Once again, thank you for your tireless efforts in helping communities achieve success by being a supportive resource. Please accept the enclosed donation on behalf of the City of Gordon.

THE CITY OF GORDON

Fred Hlava City Manager

Thank you for your leak location in leak location.

a donation of appreciation is enclosed, Spence Me.

Trenching & Shoring and Confined Space Entry Classes

<u>Competent Person for Excavation and Trench</u> will be held on Wednesday, August 12. <u>Confined Space Entry</u> will be held on Thursday, August 13. Both classes will be held at the NeRWA office.

Mid West Fire Training Associates of Burlington, Kansas, is the instructor for both classes. Their staff consists of Certified Professional Instructors and the two training courses have been recognized as meeting OSHA requirements for these topics.

Both Excavation/Trench and Confined Space Training provide hands-on opportunities for participants, using MSFTA's portable training equipment. Each class is specially designed for municipal water and wastewater personnel, electric and gas utility workers, fire and rescue personnel, line and street crews and others who need to be aware of trench, excavation and confined space hazards.

Cost for attendance is \$140 a day per person.

Class each day will be 8:00-5:30. Morning and afternoon breaks will be provided along with one hour for lunch.

Trenching & Shoring (Limit 24)

Definition of a Trench Duties of the Competent Person Weight & Pressures of Dirt Types of Cave-ins Soil Classification Testing of Soil General Requirements 1926.651 Sloping and Benching

Timber Shoring
Aluminum Hydraulic Shoring

Trench Boxes

Understanding Shoring Requirement What To Do In A Trench Emergency

Hands-On:

Review equipment, install hydraulic shores, and install pneumatic shores

Final Test

Credit Hours: 8 hours for Grades 1-4 & Wastewater

Confined Space Entry (Limit 32)

Definition of a Confined Space Definition of Permitted Confined Space Duties of Participants

OSHA & NFPA Regulations

Fall Protection

Personal Protective Equipment

Hazardous Materials

Communications

The Rescue Team

Atmosphere Testing

Ventilation

Hands-On:

Strap on full body harness, operate retrieval system, make vertical and horizontal entry, lockout-tag out SCBA Awareness, ventilation equipment

Final Test

<u>Credit Hours:</u> 8 hours for Grades 1-4, Grade 6 and Wastewater

Please fill in the following:

Name		Water Certificate # Grade:		
Employer		Grade 6 Certificate # Wastewater Certificate # CLASS ATTENDING		
Address				
City, State, Zip				
Phone	Aug. 12 - Trench Safety \$140			
		Aug 13 - Confined Space \$140		
Address to mail certificate if differ	rent from above	Total \$		
NeRWA use only:				
Payment Received	#	HOURS EARNED: WATER WW BF		

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Pilger: One Year Later

By Mike Stanzel, Circuit Rider

Well, it's been just over a year since twin tornadoes ripped through this small Nebraska town forever changing its landscape. Pilger has been deemed "The



Town too Tough to Die."



Although the entire water system went pretty much unscathed, the tornado ripped a path directly through town taking everything in its path, including houses, grain elevators, the Coop, the bank, the school, churches and City Hall. Other than numerous fire hydrants that were damaged from trees and debris, the wells, treatment plant and tower were spared.

NeRWA has had several training classes on dealing with the aftermath of a disaster like this, including a 2 hour general session at our conference that was attended by approximately 220 people. The question and answer session was very informative and brought up some very



good suggestions for future planning.



Going back to Pilger a year later I was amazed to see the new construction going on all throughout town. Prior to the tornado, Pilger had 200 service connections. As of now they are sitting at 130 service connections.

They have issued 44 zoning permits in the past year that include 17 for new houses. There are also plans in the works for a new community center, city hall, maintenance shop, a church, convenience store, Fuel Mart, bar and grill and a bank.





They also have received numerous grants and donations for things like tree stump removal and street repairs.



Needless to say, I was impressed to see this small town standing together and rebuilding for their future.





2014-2015 Water and Sewer Rate Study

By Carol Jasa, Office Secretary

With a sigh of relief I can say that the 2014-2015 water and sewer rate study is completed. That is always an accomplishment because I work on it around all the other office duties I have. A lot of you that have requested one of the rate studies have received it and the rest of you will be getting yours in the near future. If anyone else is interested in getting a copy, please contact us. If you are a member and sent in your information for the study, your first rate study is free and any extra ones are \$25.00. If you are a member and didn't send in any information, then the study will cost you \$25.00. Non-members that sent in information will get the reduced rate of \$25.00. Otherwise, everybody else will have to pay \$50.00.

Also, I can't thank all of the systems enough that sent in their system's information. It took extra time out of your busy schedules and I want you to know that it was really appreciated.



Mailing Addresses for Operators

Just want to mention to the water and wastewater operators that it is important to tell your system's clerk what address you would like them to put down on the NeRWA membership renewal form each year. We send a membership renewal form out to the systems' clerks every year and we put the information they send back to us in our database. If you want to receive our mailings at a certain address, please let your clerk know.

SEWER CAMERA FOR SALE

One used Radiodetection Gator Cam 3+ digital video sewer inspection system. Has a self-leveling camera with approximately 180 feet of cable. Sealed bids will be accepted at: NeRWA, 3390 Ponderosa Street, Wahoo, NE 68066. A minimum bid of \$1,000.00 is requested. No warranties or guarantees are given or implied. Sealed bids will be taken until August 31, 2015.



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Land of Extremes

By Mike Lucas, Wastewater Technician

Remember back in 2012 when many systems were running potable drinking water into their wastewater collection systems to attempt to maintain a minimum of 2 feet of water in their lagoons? Now here we are in 2015, only 3 years later, with water, water everywhere.

I've received many calls literally from border to border in the state regarding issues with flooding and high ground water levels. Inflow and infiltration (I&I) has been a hot topic this year.

When looking for sources of I&I it's really a two-fold effort, video inspection of sewer mains and also sewer smoking in combination. Each effort will reveal issues that the other will miss. I currently have 12 systems on my "to do" list for smoking either all or parts of their collection systems. It's best to wait for the flows to decrease and the soil to dry out for the most effective inspections. It also helps if the operator can isolate sections of the collection system where they think there is excessive flow to help prioritize areas for inspection.

It is important to regularly read and record flow readings at lift stations and at the treatment facilities, either mechanical plants or lagoons. It's also important that your lift station pumps are calibrated annually so that if you are using hour meter readings to calculate flows you have the most accurate data. I can talk you through that process or help you with it. This has an additional benefit in that you can compare the actual gallons per minute (gpm) pumped to the theoretical nameplate gpm which would indicate pump wear.

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CONTROL SYSTEMS

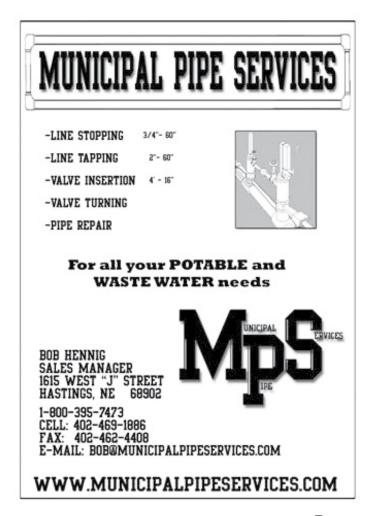
Bill Simmerman - Owner
Cell: (308) 233-4729
bill.s@municipalautomation.com

Bill Simmerman - Owner
Cell: (308) 233-4729
bill.s@municipalautomation.com

Remember that if you normally have seasonal discharging lagoons and you have to do discharge during the recreational season, additional lab tests are usually required.

If bad comes to worse and you have to do emergency discharges or bypasses based on mother-nature overwhelming you, there are still NDEQ notification requirements. I have only heard good comments regarding the Department's willingness to work with the operators and systems this year. That positive relationship is extremely important.

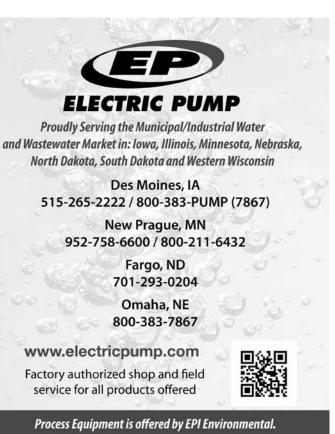
Don't worry! The weather will change and we will all be facing new challenges. They tell me that it all builds character. If so, then you should all be of exemplary character for sure. ©





Welcome...

We would like to welcome Doug Buresh back to the Nebraska Rural Water Staff. Doug worked for NeRWA from 2009 through 2012 as a Circuit Rider and Training Specialist. He will be replacing Mike Stanzel as our Source Water Specialist. Mike will be taking over Russ Topp's position as Circuit Rider. Russ resigned from NeRWA in May of this year.



Please see the website at www.epi-environmental.com

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Back Where I Started

By Barney Whatley, Capacity Development Specialist

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) advertised the Technical Assistance contract for proposals, and the Nebraska Rural Water Association (NeRWA) was awarded the contract following the bidding process. This is basically the same contract I was working under when I first came to work for NeRWA sixteen years ago, with a few exceptions. The original Technical Assistance contract consisted of two separate contracts; one for technical assistance and one for financial and managerial assistance. I was hired by NeRWA to provide the technical assistance to water systems in Nebraska. The current contract combines the technical assistance with the financial and managerial assistance, and also adds board training.

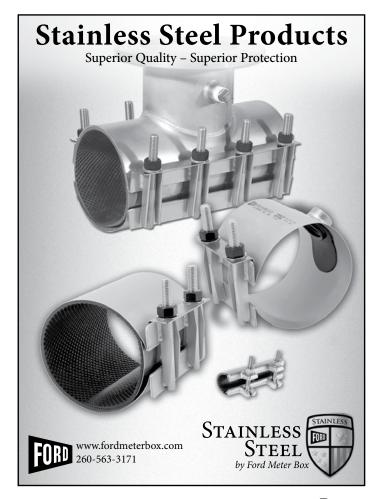
I will mainly be working with communities that are out of compliance with state regulations. This will most often occur when they either do not submit a timely response to the letter they have received following a sanitary survey, or if they have not met a deadline for completing corrective actions. I will also be completing system assessments for those systems receiving State Revolving Loan Funds (SRF) either prior to the funded project or several years following its completion. The purpose of these assessments is to determine if the project money was well spent and assisted the system in improving its technical, managerial and financial (TFM) capacity. Although these assessments are a requirement for receiving SRF funding, any system may request having an assessment completed to determine their TMF capacity and what steps they could take to improve it.

If the needs of water systems have not changed since NeRWA previously held this contract, I will also be assisting systems by performing rate studies for those systems requesting them through the 2% contract. Any system can take advantage of this by contacting Scott Sprague at (402) 471-0088 and requesting one. Any system can also be assisted in setting up an asset management plan, employee handbook, job descriptions or other management tasks through this contract.

A new addition to the contract in recent years has been training for owners and board members of Nebraska water systems. This will be done throughout the state, utilizing the resources that NeRWA already has on staff. Some of the subject matter to be covered will include budgeting, running a public meeting, knowing your system, the responsibilities

that are assumed by elected officials, and any other subject matter that would be beneficial to the system. If your Council or Board would like to take advantage of this type of training, please contact the NeRWA office or myself and we will try to set up a training session either in your community or at least in your general area. These sessions do not have to be for a single community or system, so it could work to invite neighboring systems to attend the training.

It will be nice to get back on the road and start visiting with and helping out water systems again. It feels as though I have been spending way more time than I want to in the office, and I look forward to getting back to helping systems and visiting with operators, City Clerks and Board Members.



Nebraska Rural Water Association EARLY REGISTRATION

Western Nebraska Fall Pre-Conference and Conference September 15-17, 2015 Gering Civic Center 1050 "M" Street Gering, Nebraska

One name per form. Make sure to indicate all your licenses to insure proper credit hours:

Name			<u> </u>
Certificate numbers: Water # Grad	de 6#	ww #	Well Driller
System/Company Name			
Address			
City, State, Zip			
DAYS ATTENDING		MEMBER	NON-MEMBER
PRECONFERENCE—Sept 16—DEADLINE SEPT 7 (lunch i	ncluded)	\$65.0	90.00
FULL CONFERENCE WITH PRECONFERENCE (includes all	meals)	\$165.0	\$190.00
FULL CONFERENCE (includes all meal tickets)		\$100.0	0\$125.00
WEDNESDAY ONLY (includes Banquet)		\$60.00	\$85.00
THURSDAY ONLY (includes breakfast buffet and lunch)		\$65.00	\$90.00
GUEST BANQUET TICKETS— \$15 x		TOTAL \$	TOTAL \$
GUEST LUNCH TICKETS—\$10 x		TOTAL \$	TOTAL \$
GOLF TOURNAMENT ON TUESDAY AFTERNOON	YES		
TRAP SHOOT ON WEDNESDAY MORNING	YES		
POKER RUN ON WEDNESDAY MORNING	YES		
meal: Yes EARLY REGISTRATION DEAI	DLINE	TOTAL DUE \$	
is Sept 4.		Late charge, if	any \$
Fee increases \$25 for registr	ations	Total	5
dated or postmarked betw		BILL ME	
Sept 5 and Sept 11.			
NO REGISTRATIONS AFTER SEPT 11.		CHECK ENCLOSED (Note: Certificates will not be mailed until payment	
\$50 increase at door.		•	ed in NeRWA office.)
			,
To Register (no phone registrations): Fax: 402-443-5274 Online: www.nerwa.org Mail: Nebraska Rural Water Association 3390 Ponderosa Street		Monument Inn, 113 308-436-1	
•		Wastewater	
Payment received	Check #	Certificate	e mailed

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Western Conference

By Pat Petersen, Training Specialist

As the summer heat continues to warm us up, it's time for me to start looking towards the fall season and planning the western conference. Once again the Nebraska Rural Water Association will be heading west to Gering, Nebraska and invading the Gering Convention Center for 3 days of learning and fun. This year the pre-conference will take place on Tuesday, September 15th. The conference its self will be held Wednesday, September 16th in the afternoon and then Thursday, September 17th will be an entire day of training sessions.

A preliminary theme for the pre-conference will be "What the Future Holds for Your Water System." If all things come together, we will focus on the specific things that can and will affect your water system now and in the future. Certain topics we hope to discuss at the pre-conference may include; infrastructure, new metering, budgeting and finally operator replacement. This should be a very good session to help all operators and city leaders see how the water world is changing. Following the Pre-Conference, the annual golf tournament will take place. If you have any questions about the golf tournament you can contact myself or Randy Hellbusch.

The traditional morning at the trap range or the poker run through the western sandhills will take place on Wednesday morning. Operators will have a chance to show off their trapshooting skills or relax on a 3 hour motorcycle ride before training sessions begin. If you are interested in the trapshoot, you can contact Mike Stanzel. DHHS Area 8 Field Rep., Doug Woodbeck, and Scottsbluff water operator, Jack Satur, will be heading the Poker Run which will begin in front of the Gering Convention Center.

Howard Isaacs will give the annual regulatory update to kick off the conference. For those of you who may not know, Howard has stepped into the position that was held by Jack Daniel. Following Howard will be a presentation by Bill Podraza of Miller and Associates giving operators advice on how to approach and speak with their governing board or council. Rich Koenig will finish up the day on Wednesday with a presentation about a situation that happened to him. Rich is the DHHS Field Rep. for Area 3 and his presentation is entitled "We Don't Know What Happened, Now What?" A social hour and awards banquet will finish off our Wednesday festivities. This looks like it will be a great start to our fun fall conference!

Thursday, September 17th will begin with the operators' breakfast followed by 6 hours of training sessions. Some of the sessions include: Sample Sites/Assessments, Wastewater Operator Certification, Disinfection Bi-products and several opportunities for backflow education. Recertification hours will be sent in for approval for water operators, wastewater operators, Grade 6 operators and well-drillers.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to thank Russ Topp for everything he has taught me in the wonderful world of water. Thanks, Russ! Enjoy your retirement. You deserve it!

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Doug Yantzie, Municipal Manager

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2015 TOPICS FOR FALL CONFERENCE

Nebraska State Regulation Update
"We Don't Know What Happened, Now What"?
Proper Ways to Address Boards and Councils
Source Water Protection Plans
Wastewater Certification Update
Public Notice Procedures
Trench Safety
Confined Space Safety
Field Rep Round Table
Disinfection Bi-Products
Fire Hydrant Flow Testing and Maintenance
Modern Maintenance Materials
Frequently Used Terms You May Not Know

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When you stay at the Monument Inn & Suites as your Gering/Scottsbluff Hotel you'll have access to many exceptional amenities. The hotel is right next to the Gering Civic Center and offers several complimentary services.

Check-in 3:00 pm Check-out 12:00 noon

Accepted at this hotel: American Express, Carte Blanche, Diners Club, Discover, MasterCard, Visa

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Room Amenities:

In-Room Keurig Coffee/Tea Service
Flat Screen TV with USB Ports
Free Local and Long Distance Calls
Free High Speed Wireless Internet
Microwave
Refrigerator/Freezer
Complimentary Bottled Water
Local Newspaper

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Nebraska Rural Water Association 2015 Western Conference CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

Tuesday, September 15, 2015

12:45PM-1:45PM 2:30PM-6:00PM

7:30AM-8:00AM Pre Conference Registration 8:00AM-12:15PM Attend Pre Conference Sessions

12:15PM-12:45PM Lunch (Provided for Pre Conference Attendees)

Attend Pre Conference Sessions

Golf Tournament at Riverview Golf and Country Club

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

8:00AM-12:00PM Exhibitor Set-up Begins

8:30AM-12:00PM Trap Shoot at the Mitchell Valley Trap Club

8:30AM-12:00PM Poker Run Motorcycle Ride

10:00AM-12:30PM Registration Opens
11:30AM-12:30PM Lunch (On your Own)
12:30PM-2:00PM Training Sessions
2:00PM-2:15PM Break, Tour Exhibits
2:15PM-3:15PM Training Sessions

3:15PM-3:30PM Break

3:30PM-5:00PM Training Sessions

5:00PM-6:00PM Social Hour in Exhibit Area

6:00PM-7:00PM Banquet and Awards

Thursday September 17, 2015

6:30AM-7:30AM Breakfast in Exhibit Area 7:00AM-8:30AM Conference Registration

7:30AM-8:30AM Training Sessions 8:30AM-8:45AM **Break, Tour Exhibits** 8:45AM-9:45AM **Training Sessions** 9:45AM-10:00AM **Break, Tour Exhibits** 10:00AM-11:00AM Training Sessions 11:00AM-11:15AM **Break, Tour Exhibits** 11:15AM-12:15PM **Training Sessions** 12:15PM-1:15PM **Lunch in Exhibit Area** 1:15PM-2:15PM **Training Sessions**

2:15PM-2:30PM Break

2:30PM-3:30PM Final Training Sessions



I'm back...

By Doug Buresh, Source Water Specialist

Greetings, all! It's good to be working once again for the Nebraska Rural Water Association where I will serve as the new Source Water Specialist. I am looking forward to renewing old acquaintances and making new ones. For those who don't know me, I got my start in my parents' plumbing business where I worked for twenty-five years before moving into municipal waterworks operations. I became a licensed wastewater operator in 2002 and water operator in 2003. I have a degree in geography from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. In my free time, I enjoy deer and mushroom hunting.

Whether a Public Water Supply System relies on groundwater, surface water, or a combination of the two, protecting its existing sources of water is important. If you have any questions about what is involved with creating or updating a Wellhead Protection Plan for your system, please feel free to contact me on my cell phone at (402)480-4196, or email me at doug@nerwa.org.



Chris Johnson Gary Kluthe Matt Moul

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WE NEED YOUR WATER TOWER...

We are running low on pictures of water towers. Send us your tower!!!

We are putting the water towers of Nebraska on our cover and are featuring a different tower on each issue. We have only used up a fraction of the towers in the state.

Let us add your name to our list and see how long it gets. Email a picture to salli@nerwa.org.





Do You Have a Good Main Flushing Program?

By Randy Hellbusch, Circuit Rider

All of us involved in the drinking water industry want to deliver the best possible product to our customers. We also all work with a limited budget and money constraints. One of the most economical ways to improve water quality in a distribution system is by having a good flushing program. Things that cause buildup of slime and deposits inside of pipes can be cured with a good flushing program. Flushing is one of the best and most economical methods of eliminating taste and odor problems as well as increasing pipe flows throughout the system. It is also beneficial if you operate a chlorinated system by reducing chlorine demand and improving residuals.

There are basically two methods of flushing water mains: conventional & unidirectional. Conventional flushing is

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when hydrants are opened in a manner that allows for water to flow in all directions to the hydrant. This method does not usually create high flows and velocity is normally 2 to 2.5 ft. per second as water is coming from various directions.

Unidirectional flushing creates maximum flow to the hydrant by allowing the water to only travel in a certain section of main. 5 to 7 ft. per second velocity can be achieved with unidirectional flushing. This creates a scouring effect within the pipe increasing the removal of slime and debris that build up over time. This is accomplished by closing valves strategically so that the hydrant is only being fed in one direction. The distance to be flushed should be kept to a maximum of 1500 ft. The volume of each flush is dependent on the length of pipe being flushed at a minimum of 2.5 x the volume of the pipe in question. This usually will take 15 to 30 minutes per flush. There are a few operational considerations before any hydrant flushing occurs.

- 1. Control the discharged water to avoid flooding of storm sewer and streets.
- 2. Notify the public of flushing dates, times and areas.
- 3. Keep records of any hydrant or valve issues during the process.
- 4. Traffic control is important for the safety of system operators as well as the public.

Hard to operate or inoperable valves are a big reason many operators shy away from unidirectional flushing. NeRWA has a WACHS hydraulic valve turner to assist with this process. Just call the office or any of the field staff if this is something you are interested in or if you have any questions about a main flushing program.

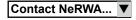


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Nebraska Good Water News

Nebraska Rural Water Association - 3390 Ponderosa Drive - Wahoo, NE 68066 Home | Office | Membership Info | Training | Annual Conference | Fall Conference | EXPO

NeRWA Staff



News & Downloads Page

Informational Links

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Water Circuit Rider II

Training Specialist

Wastewater Tech.

Sourcewater Protection Specialist

Capacity Development Specialist

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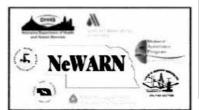


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National Rural Water

USDA Rural Development

NE Public Water Supply

HHS License Information

SDWIS System Data

EPA Wastewater

EPA Drinking Water

Nebraska DEQ

League of Municipalities

Nebraska Section, AWWA

AWWA Library Reference Listings

NeRWA Associate Members

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