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September 2021

A Letter from the desk of the Manager:

This October marks the 40th anniversary of when Cedar Knox Rural Water Project (CKRWP) began providing water to 285 rural customers in Cedar and Knox County as well as the communities of Crofton and St Helena. CKRWP has seen many changes in the last 40 years, growing to serve over 900 rural customers, two additional communities, Fordyce and Obert, 3 housing subdivisions and 7 seasonal recreational areas.

In order to meet current system needs, CKRWP maintains a total of 392 miles of pipeline, 3 storage tanks, 4 booster stations, and 8 pressure reducing stations. There have also been a number of improvements to the treatment plant in Devils Nest including the addition of a clarifier and filter to handle the increased demand, a second clearwell to meet contact time for disinfection, and a powdered activated carbon feed system to help reduce naturally occurring organics and improve taste.

That being said, CKRWP is facing some of its biggest challenges to date, it is no secret that there is a vast amount of sediment moving into Lewis and Clark Lake. With the advancement of sediment, it is just a matter of time before this sediment will inundate the intake screen at Devils Nest. The advancing sediment carries with it organic matter, that when removed using chlorine results in the development Total Trihalomethane (TTHM) which is a byproduct of disinfection.

Currently, the CKRWP Advisory Committee and staff are working with engineers from Bartlett & West Engineering Inc. and the State of Nebraska to identify an alternative water source. There are many factors to consider when changing sources including 1) a state issued Administrative Order (AO) for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) concentrations, 2) locating a high quality, abundant and reliable supply of water to accommodate current and future demand, and 3) a source location that fits easily into the existing system.

To achieve these goals, the Advisory Committee is focusing on identifying a groundwater source that will solve the TTHM Administrative Order and will provide a reliable water supply to meet demand. The sites identified show promise of a robust, high quality water supply, however, the sites also have a need for treatment, albeit different treatment processes for each site. While a new treatment facility can be expensive, it is imperative that CKRWP be situated to meet or exceed the ever-changing EPA and State required Drinking Water Standards in place for the protection of all water customers.

The Advisory Committee and staff of CKRWP thank the system customers, past and present. It's an exciting time for Cedar Knox Rural Water Project. It has been a great 40 years and we look forward to serving your drinking water needs for the next 40 years.

Advisory Committee

Paul Thoene - Chair

Joe Janssen

Martin Kleinschmit

Dan Kollars

Francis Steffen

Chuck Sudbeck

Dennis Tilton

Matt Weinandt

Terry Zavadil

CKRWP STAFF

~Manager~

Scott Fiedler

~Plant Technicians~

Cope Clark

~Field/Plant Technician~

Vince Lammers

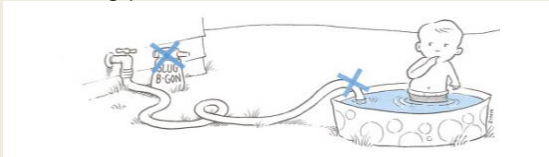
~Program Assistant~

Sue Sudbeck

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Fiedler".

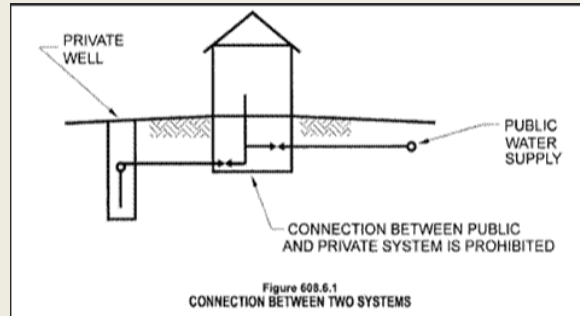
Prevent Backflow:

Can you imagine drinking water that came from a swimming pool, hot tub, or stock tank?

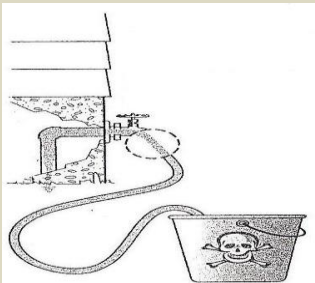


It can happen when a pool, hot tub or tank is filled with a hose and the hose end is below water level. All it takes is a drop in water pressure (such as a waterline break). Chemical handheld sprayers attached to a hose is another way to contaminate drinking water. Any time a water outlet, whether it is a garden hose or a permanent plumbing installation, is under water - even slightly - backflow or back siphonage can occur. It is very important to prevent cross connections with backflow prevention assemblies.

There shall not be any physical connection between any private water system and the water system of Cedar Knox Rural Water Project, unless such connection is protected by a back flow prevention device approved for the risk by the State Health Department. An annual written certification of testing, by a state licensed backflow prevention device tester, of any backflow device having test ports is required by CKRWP. Failure to comply with requirements may result in disconnection of water service.



CKRWP recommends installing a hose bib vacuum breaker to all hydrants and faucets where a hose can be attached. There are approved freeze-proof hose bib vacuum-breakers available at the office for \$8.00 plus tax.



Pressure Regulating Valves:

Rural Water meter pits contain a pressure regulating valve (PRV). PRVs do occasionally fail over time. When this happens, water pressure can be very low or there will be no water at all. In rare cases, the pressure will be much higher and won't drop back to normal after a faucet has run for a short time. These changes usually occur very slowly over time. If you notice the water pressure seems too low or too high, please contact the office so a work order can be made to check if the PRV is working properly or if it needs to be replaced.

PRVs are CKRWP property and are replaced by CKRWP staff. Properly working PRVs at times can be adjusted to suit the customer's water pressure needs, PRVs can ONLY be adjusted by CKRWP staff.

Water Rates

CKRWP strives to provide quality water at the lowest cost possible. However, due to the ever-rising cost of production as well as increasing operation and maintenance costs, rates will be increasing this year. New rates will go into effect in October 2021.

Residential water use & service will be tax exempt effective October 1, 2021.

The new rate chart is included with the September 2021 statement.



Water Service and Customer Responsibility:

Customer responsibility begins immediately after the CKRWP water service meter pit. The meter pit, water meter, MIU and MIU board are all the property of CKRWP. Any damage to CKRWP's water service equipment other than normal wear and tear and weathering is the customer's responsibility.

Shutting Water Off and Curb Stops:

The water shut off in the meter pit is not designed for frequent use. CKRWP highly recommends all customers install a curb stop on their private lines just after the meter. A curb stop gives customers easy access to turn the water on and off on a regular basis or in emergency situations. A curb stop is a water control valve located on the private water line beside the water meter pit. Its purpose is to facilitate the isolation of water supply to the customer.

Please call if you need water shut off in the pit. The shut off valve in the pit should ONLY be shut off by CKRWP employees.

