

UPDATE ON EDINBURG'S WATER

It has been over a month since we had to inform you all about a positive reading for Ecoli in one of our monthly water tests. First we want you to know that there was never a health threat for any of our water customers. The Health Department met with us about the problem and the reason for the positive test was quickly found.

The Town is required to take 2 monthly tests at 2 different locations throughout the Town. The testing locations were chosen a number of years ago and were all approved by the Health Department at that time. One of the locations used for testing this past September was the water hydrant at the Edinburg Manor pump station; which we have now been told should not be used in the future and was the cause of our positive Ecoli test results.

A yard hydrant drains back to its base after every use (to protect it from freezing) and some of the water that drains back can be drawn back into the hydrant when it is used again. This is what happened during the September test. The Ecoli that was present was in the drained water and not in the Town's actual water system.

When a positive Ecoli test occurs we have 30 days (this is why a notice was not sent out sooner to answer those of you that questioned the delay informing our customers) to retest that area of the system at a location upstream and one location downstream from the site that had the positive reading. This is where we dropped the ball; these additional tests were not performed. It was assumed that the Contract Operator had sent in the additional samples. The first we realized that this had not happened was when the Health Department contacted the Mayor late on the afternoon of October 24th saying that the notice you received about Ecoli had to be distributed by 5:00 pm October 25th. The notice we distributed was written by the Health Department and regrettably caused quite a bit of confusion for many of our water customers.

We were told that we could reword the notice; however, any change would require Health Department approval. The Mayor contacted the Health Department about rewording the notice to better explain the problem on the morning of October 25th; they did not return his call and we were forced to send the notice as provided. We truly apologize for the unnecessary concern about the safety of your drinking water.

We wanted to hold off sending this update until a new testing site could be secured near the area of the questionable test results. This has been found and a test at the new site as well as one upstream and one downstream have been performed; all 3 tests showed no Ecoli present in our water.

As many of you are aware, we have had a number of mechanical issues with our water system since spring of this year. Some of them have been weather related and some have been breakdowns or malfunctions of electrical and mechanical parts. We continue to work through these problems and appreciate your cooperation when we have had to ask for water conservation to assure that we can provide water to all of our customers. It is always difficult to get the word out whenever things like the need for water conservation or some other emergency occurs. If you have not already done so, please consider giving the Town Office an Email address that can be used to easily contact you when these situations come up. For now, please rest assured that our water is safe and we are doing all we can to keep it that way.