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May 31, 2016

To Members and Water Users of Entranosa

Re: Lead and Copper Concerns

Over the past several months the horrendous stories out of Flint, Michigan, have permeated the news, and we've received a few inquiries in the office about lead and copper in our drinking water. So - it seems appropriate to provide some basic information on the issue as it affects Entranosa.

First – our source water (wells) doesn't have any lead (our aquifers are limestone, sandstone and gravel), and only occasional very low levels of copper.

Second – we aren't Flint (or Detroit, Washington DC or Philadelphia). Our system is relatively young, as are the homes and plumbing systems we serve, so lead was not utilized in construction.

Third – the triggering factor in Flint was the corrosiveness of the new water source, the failure to properly address warning signs (increased bacteriological problems, increased levels of disinfection byproducts, a large jump in customer complaints about changes in taste and color of the water), and then failure to report the actual results of tests – since Flint utilized its own lab for testing. Our water is mildly corrosive (pH less than 7), but within established limits for drinking water.

Fourth – we've been testing for lead and copper since the early 90's, and test results are consistent with the EPA and New Mexico Environment Department guidelines for those tests.

Our latest tests were in 2015, and the results are posted in our new Consumer Confidence Report, dated May 6, 2016 (with 2015 data). They show the system is in compliance. Of note - samples are pulled from inside the home, as a "first draw" sample in the morning, by the resident – we collect the samples and have them analyzed at a lab that (we do not control, and which is certified by NMED). Results are sent by the lab to us and NMED (so we can't hide the data). Regardless of the results, we publish the information in a newsletter, include it our annual CCR, and notify the participants of the results. From time to time, we'll get an individual result that exceeds the threshold set by EPA and we immediately resample.

We always pull a lead sample at our office – this past year, the test result was above the EPA threshold – we resampled, using the protocol, and the result was well under the threshold – as it has been the previous 23 years of testing.

If you have concerns about lead in your water, we'll be glad to discuss it with you. If you wish to get it tested, we can help you contact a lab.

Should you have questions – please contact us at the office and ask for John, Drew or Lori.

