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March 16, 2021

Erda Acres Water Shareholders  
Erda, Utah

Shareholders,

I hope you are all excited for the spring season. I have a few of items I need to bring to your attention.

I wanted to inform you of requirements the Utah Division of Drinking Water has regarding Cross-Connection Control (CCC) prevention and our responsibilities as homeowners and a public water company to comply. The Water Company has been making improvements to our side of the water system for the last few years to protect homeowners from contaminated water but now needs shareholders to do their part in meeting the requirements in State Law and Rule. Beginning in December, 2021, when the Sanitary Survey of our water system is completed, we need to demonstrate that we are actively implementing our CCC Program. Shareholders have two areas where we need help.

The most common way that homes on water systems like ours (with no secondary irrigation water) get contaminated is through leaving a garden hose attached to a hose bib on your house and then leaving it in a water trough, water feature, or pool. If water pressure in the home drops, contaminated water is siphoned back into your house. Every hose bib should be antisiphon style or have a Hose Bib Vacuum Device attached to it that prevents Backsiphonage. Also, when you are filling any water trough or pool, do not lay the end of the hose in the water but suspend it above the water fill line so bad water will not be pulled into the hose and your house.

The second most common source of contamination is through an irrigation system. All home irrigation systems are required by the Plumbing Code and State Law to have a certified backflow preventer. Backflow preventers prevent water contaminated with herbicides, pesticides and animal waste from backing up into your house or even our water system and contaminating your neighbors' house, also. This contamination is considered a high health hazard and can make you sick or worse. Prior to 2006, a double check valve assembly was frequently used since it could be installed in a pit on irrigation systems. Since 2006, these have been prohibited. All lawn irrigation systems installed since 2006 have been required to have either a Reduced Pressure Principle (RP) Backflow Prevention Assembly (most common) or a Pressure Vacuum Breaker (PVB) Backflow Prevention Assembly. Both of these are installed above ground and are testable.

The Plumbing Code requires that the Assembly be maintained in sanitary and safe operating conditions so the State Division of Drinking Water requires these assemblies to be tested every year by a State Certified Tester and requires the Water Company to track this testing. Responsibility for this annual testing falls on the shareholder. The Water Company must make sure your sprinkler irrigation system has a certified backflow prevention assembly but will not enforce the testing requirement. That is up to you but we are required to maintain a record of testing and a certified tester is required to send us a copy of your test results. By State Rule (Section R309-105-12), a water company is not allowed to connect a service line to the culinary water system that could jeopardize the quality and integrity of the system. Our Company By-Laws have the same requirement.

To start this process, the Water Company will need to visit all homes connected to the water system this spring and verify that the sprinkler system, if present, has an approved backflow preventer. We will also look at your hose bibs to check for an antisiphon device. Please call or text Alan Clark, our operator, at 435-496-3468 if you have any questions. The Utah Division of Drinking Water maintains a list of certified backflow assembly testers on its website. If desired, Erda Acres can provide you with a list of certified testers for our area.

One other item on irrigating your lawn and garden. Please wait until the ground is dry in the spring and avoid irrigating with sprinklers during the heat of the day or when windy. Over 70% of the water will evaporate and never benefit your grass and plants. Erda Acres recommends waiting until the end of April or the beginning of May before you start irrigating. Also, make every effort to irrigate after 6pm and before 9am. This will allow for the more efficient use of our water resource and save you money on the amount of water you use.

Sincerely,

Tom Isom  
President  
Erda Acres Water