

ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 13, 2012

ECWA TO BEGIN ANNUAL MAIN FLUSHING PROGRAM

Buffalo, New York - The Erie County Water Authority (ECWA) will begin its annual main flushing program would begin on Tuesday, February 21st. Work will begin in the towns of Newstead, Alden, Marilla, Aurora and Orchard Park. Main flushing normally begins in April, but will commence this month due to the limited snowfall and above normal temperatures our area is experiencing this winter.

The main flushing program is a routine systematic flushing of all dead end mains within the ECWA's distribution system. It is done annually by the ECWA as a preventative maintenance procedure that is designed to improve water quality and service delivery.

Over time, the dead-end sections of water mains can accumulate sediments and other solids that may reduce the carrying capacity of the water main and may be a source of color, taste and odor problems. Main flushing will remove these substances and will also help to identify areas in the system that need additional maintenance or improvement.

"With 3,493 miles of water mains throughout our extensive distribution system, the annual main flushing program helps us prevent sediment build up and cost effectively improve water quality and service delivery on behalf of our customers," said ECWA Chairperson Francis G. Warthling.

Flushing is done by partially opening a hydrant or a blow off located near the affected area. The hydrant or blow off is kept open until all sediments have been removed.

"It's a fairly simple procedure," Warthling said. "We plan to complete the program without any interruptions in service and with as little inconvenience as possible for our customers."

Main flushing will be done Monday through Thursday and will continue until the fall, weather permitting. Customers who live in areas where the main flushing occurs may experience low pressure and discolored water. These conditions are temporary and will subside after the flushing is completed. If discoloration occurs, customers should run the cold water tap at the lowest point of their residence or business for a few minutes or until the water runs clear. Clothing should not be laundered if water is discolored or staining could result.

Water quality will not be adversely affected and is entirely safe to drink during the flushing procedure.

If customers have any questions regarding the program or need more information, they may call the ECWA at 684-0900, anytime.

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