

Pipelines

SUMMER 2007

Telephone Numbers

**Greene County
Sanitary
Engineering
Department**

**Administration
Building**
562-7450

**Emergency
Number**
562-7450
(after business
hours)

Billing
562-7457

Customer Service
562-7495

Public Relations
562-7679

**Environmental
Services**
562-5925

Web Address:
[www.co.greene.
oh.us/saneng/](http://www.co.greene.oh.us/saneng/)

Lawn-watering restrictions replace ban

Dear Water Customer,

It has been an eventful summer for the Greene County Sanitary Engineering Department and our customers.

Greene County Commissioners modified the total lawn-watering ban issued in June and moved to an odd/even system of watering restrictions. These restrictions are currently in place and will remain so for the foreseeable future.

Under these restrictions, if your address is an even number, you are able to water on even numbered days and if your address is an odd number you are able to water on odd-numbered days. Please practice the conservation measures listed on our

website to help limit the amount of water you use.

When demand exceeded supply in early June, we were forced to issue a total lawn-watering ban, and Department employees turned off irrigation systems. Primarily due to our customer's compliance with the ban, the system stabilized and the Commissioners changed to the odd/even watering restrictions in July.

However, the system is still vulnerable and your compliance with the odd/even restrictions is critical to the stability of the water system. We are closely monitoring the production wells and tank levels so we can respond promptly to anything that would jeopardize the system. If this method of restrict-

ing lawn watering does not keep our system viable, we will find it necessary to return to the total lawn-watering ban. Our primary goal is to ensure the integrity of the system so that the health and safety needs of our citizens will be met. Your assistance and cooperation in achieving this goal is greatly appreciated.

Additional information about the watering restrictions will appear on our website at [http://
www.co.greene.oh.us/
saneng/default.asp](http://www.co.greene.oh.us/saneng/default.asp)

We appreciate your cooperation and patience throughout this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hissong

Sanitary Engineer

Planning for the future

The County has been continuously making improvements to the water system, but recognize the need to expedite the acquisition of additional water sources, either through the siting of additional wells or through intergovernmental agreements. Improvements are scheduled for the water distribution system, including new connecting lines to improve water flow in the system.

All of this is being done with no rate increase planned through 2010.

Please look at our web site at <http://www.co.greene.oh.us/saneng/default.asp> for more information on the planned improvements.

Drought, high use endangered system

Many customers have questioned why the watering ban had to be issued so quickly.

Although May was very dry, there was no clear indication of the problem.

The water supply in the water storage towers was showing a decline in early June, but it was not critical. Then on June 4, the demand outstripped our ability to produce water. We asked the media to help us inform our customers of the need to move to odd/even watering restrictions. We had hoped the odd/even restrictions would alleviate and/or reduce the impact the lack of rain caused in our water system. Unfortunately, the request for voluntary watering restrictions did not reach our customers quickly enough to reduce the stress on our water system. Rain was predicted on June 8 and we were also hoping that would help our situation. The fact that we received no rain, coupled with the fact that our voluntary watering restrictions were not communicated

early enough, caused our water system to reach a critical stage late on June 9 and 10. Hitting a critical stage on the weekend was probably the worst possible scenario (particularly as it relates to getting the word out to our customers). We were left with only one solution: immediately turn off all irrigation systems, send the word to the media (television stations, radio stations, newspapers, City cable access channel, fire departments, web page, etc.) and do everything that we possibly could to prevent the depressurization of the water system.

We also worked with the Cities of Bellbrook and Fairborn and Montgomery County Sanitary Engineering Department to establish temporary connections to keep our system pressurized.

Depressurization of the water system is a critical situation that demands immediate action; unpopular, but necessary. If the system depressurizes, the issuance of a "boil water advisory" is manda-

tory. In other words, anyone using water from our system for potable purposes would have had to boil it first.

Another critical aspect is the fact that the ability of our system to provide water to fight fires has been severely affected due to the dramatic increase in the use of irrigation water. During normal situations, the County produces more than an adequate amount of water to meet customer's needs in the Northwest Regional Water System. Demand during winter months is normally 3 to 4 million gallons. The plant can produce up to 6 million gallons per day at full capacity. During the critical period in June, demand exceeded 7 million gallons per day, leading to the system reaching a critical stage of operations.

Since the original ban was issued, we have been able to access CodeRed, a high speed emergency telephone notification system for our customers. We are evaluating other suggestions for improving communications.