



On March 11, 2019 T&W Water Service (T&W) issued a Boil Water Notice (BWN) for the Riverwalk Subdivision. I would like to take this time to explain what transpires when a water system experiences low pressure or a water outage that may or may not result in a BWN.

First of all, the two main reasons for a BWN are for low or no pressure in which case the possibility of contamination exist, or for testing results to show positive for contamination. The BWN just issued was for no pressure and the possibility of contamination.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Resources (TCEQ) has regulations that we follow in a low pressure (less than 20 PSI) situation or a complete loss of pressure situation. The rules state that if the water mains can be disinfected and adequately flushed that a BWN is not required. T&W will do this on a routine basis for leak repair or valve replacement. After the leak repair, we will disinfect the pipe, flush, get a good chlorine residual at the flush points and take samples. When this occurs, we are not required to issue a BWN.

The emergency leak repair that resulted in a BWN first occurred around noon. Our operators spent several hours trying to close valves to isolate the leak to no avail. We decided around 3 P.M. to turn off most of the subdivision in order to make the needed repairs. After the repair was made, we disinfected and flushed the water mains in the near vicinity of the repair. Because we could not adequately flush the rest of the subdivision in a timely manner, we decided to issue the BWN.

After issuing the BWN we flushed the system, took water samples to the lab and waited for the results before rescinding the BWN.

Sincerely,

Ron Payne
President