

ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 29, 2016

ECWA TO BEGIN ANNUAL MAIN FLUSHING PROGRAM

Buffalo, New York – The Erie County Water Authority (ECWA) will start its annual main flushing program the week of May 2nd. Work will be done in the City of Lackawanna and the towns of Amherst, Cheektowaga and Orchard Park (excluding the Village).

The main flushing is part of an annual maintenance program that consists of the systematic flushing of all dead-end mains within the ECWA's distribution system. The program is done as a preventative procedure that is designed to be a cost effective way 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 be a source of color, taste, and odor problems. Main flushing will remove these substances and will also help to identify areas of the system in need of additional maintenance or improvement.

"This program will help achieve the highest possible quality water for our customers," said ECWA Chairman, Earl L. Jann Jr. "Flushing the mains in these areas disposes of sediment built-up within the 2750 miles of secondary mains that make up our distribution system."

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.

"We expect to complete this program without any service interruptions," Jann said. "Customers may experience low pressure in some areas, but these conditions will subside after the flushing is completed."

Main flushing will be done Monday through Friday and will continue until the fall, weather permitting. 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.

For any questions or more information regarding the program, please call the ECWA at 716-684-0900.



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