



UP THE CREEK

March 1, 2011

You are warned that this newsletter contains nothing but actual *news*. If you are scanning down the page looking for made-up words or other typical ridiculae, they're not here. Instead, we are taking time out to inform you of the activities of your Association, as a newsletter is supposed to do.

March is the traditional time of spring flushing. Around mid-month, we will begin cleaning the winter's accumulation of rust and sediment out of our pipes. This is accomplished by opening fire hydrants or flush valves around the system and, well, creating a mess. The purpose is to get a fast flow going through the pipes to sweep them clean of stuff. Collateral damage may include washing away your driveway, front yard, and maybe a pet or two.

We will follow a flushing schedule which starts at the top (highest elevation) of our system and winds up more or less at the bottom. It is designed to herd the dirt uniformly and smoothly, leaving nothing but pristine pipes behind and without chugging your plumbing, inconveniencing the cook, or browning the laundry. Reality, of course follows its own plan. We have learned that there can be physical and emotional consequences of pipeline flushing.

The physical:

1. Low water pressure, or temporary absence of water. If it happens during our flushing program, in daytime, it is probably due to our flushing activities. Otherwise, it's something more serious. Either way, you can check with our office. Flushing seldom causes an outage of more than 15 to 20 minutes, but there may be exceptions. Be prepared by saving some water for essential use.
2. Discolored water – this will nearly always happen, it's unavoidable, and could be air or mud/rust. If a glass of milky-looking water clears up in a minute or two, it was just dissolved air, which is harmless and goes away on its own eventually. If it stays cloudy, or deposits inch of mud at the bottom of the glass, then you should do some flushing of your own. (We will complete the flushing program before meter reading starts, so that you will not incur a high water bill by flushing your own pipes.) Use large-bore faucets, like outside hose connections, or maybe a bathtub. Sink and shower fixtures are likely have flow restrictors and screens on them; they will not run much water, and will probably plug up. You will undoubtedly need to clean your sink aerators after an episode of flushing.

The emotional aspect of pipeline flushing manifests as “water rage,” a phenomenon that grips people during times of great stress, for example, in the shower when you've worked up a lather, and it's beginning to sting your eyes, and you need to rinse **immediately**, but there is a sudden cessation of water, and by the time you drip your way to the phone and call USCDWUA and/or your lawyer, the water is running again, but is of a color that may discourage you from stepping back in, which doesn't matter, because the shower head then plugs up, and you find that you are dwelling at the uttermost limit of your patience. *

We plan to start flushing on March 7th. The direction of progress will be southward and eastward, starting at U50 road and proceeding down the valley, across Cedar Mesa, Cactus Park, Dry Creek, and finishing on Redlands Mesa. Meter reading will begin March 18th.

If you inquire at our office, we will pretend to know when you should expect the physical effects of flushing in your neighborhood. Unfortunately, we can't help you with water rage. This is one of those things in life you just gotta deal with.

Dh

*Thereby enabling the longest sentence ever to appear in an *Up The Creek* newsletter.