Where does Princeton get its water?

The City of Princeton is one of 13 member cities that receive water from North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD). The District was formed in 1951 and now serves over 1.6 million residents. NTMWD receives its water from Lake Lavon, Lake Chapman, Lake Tawakoni, and Lake Texoma. NTMWD purifies and treats the water before supplying it to the member cities.

The City has 3 storage tanks with a combined capacity of 1.6 millon gallons. Once the water is pumped to Princeton from NTMWD, the water is tested for the proper chlorine residuals before and after leaving Princeton's storage tanks. This is done daily to assure the water meets the standards of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). A copy of the *"Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report"* that was mailed to every water customer can be found on the City website under City News and Public Works.

Some Key Notes!

In 2009 the City was required to expand its system to keep up with our growth. The City secured funding from GTUA and constructed new water infrastructure including storage facilities to meet the demand. This includes the new water tower north of town and the ground storage tank on Dogwood. Since the downturn in the economy and the slowdown in building, the City has had to subsidize the water fund nearly $900,000 over the past 3 years, and we are hoping to avoid raising the water rates.

The continued drought has also had an effect on water rates. Water sales depend on the ability to sell water, and water rates depend on the amount of water sales. During the past few years the City has been in Stage 3 water conservation. This has greatly affected the ability for the City to sell water. The NTMWD constructed a new pipeline from Lake Texoma this year, however this only makes up for the water that was lost from stopping the inflow to Lake Lavon. As the NTMWD secures additional reservoirs to support the demand, and the population increases within the City, we remain hopeful to relax the water rates.

The City does not estimate the consumption of water. In 2009 the City installed radio read meters in the majority of the City. Today there are very few meters that require manual readings. These radio read meters are read through a drive by receiver that the Public Works has in their vehicle, this is similar to the other utilities electric, gas etc. The vehicle mounted receivers reach up to 150 ft. when collecting readings. This allows the Public Works to collect data without having to get out of the vehicle and open the meter can. Through this system the Public Works Department has the capability to collect information from the meter to determine date, time and amount of consumption. This has proven effective when a customer discovers a water leak in there system.

The City of Princeton also supplies water to the Culleoka Water Supply Corporation. CWSC is a rural water supplier and supplies water to some of the unincorporated areas of Princeton. The CWSC's system is different than the City of Princeton's system, because Princeton's system is also a fire system. Princeton's system has larger piping that will produce high volumes of water for firefighting operations. Also Princeton has fire hydrants placed along roadways within a much shorter distance to buildings and residences. The City of Princeton's storage capacity and pumping capacity is designed to handle longer periods of demand and water outages. This system also requires considerably more maintenance than a rural water system. Without the added expenses in providing the fire system and additional safeguards, CWSC can deliver water to their customers at a lower rate than Princeton.

The protection of health and welfare of the Citizens of Princeton is paramount. We strive to continually deliver quality water and quality service to our citizens.

Derek Borg

City Manager