

# Water Works

## From Mary Massad, Manager/CEO



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Manager/CEO

Do you believe the access to quality water is a basic “need” of every resident in southwest North Dakota? If you said, “Yes” then you’ll understand

why numerous more-than-patient rural residents living east and west of the City of Center need to be connected. These folks (understandably) want to receive the same quality water that over 50,000 Southwest Water Authority’s (SWA) customers now enjoy.

At last count, there are nearly 500 landowners located in the east and west Center service area who have signed up for water, in some cases, decades ago. All of these residents are on wells. Some of these folks are STILL hauling water for drinking and cooking due to substandard or contaminated water quality produced by their wells. It’s time to get them connected.

One resident we spoke to said, “The water quality of our well at 50 feet was very poor and rusty, so we

thought going deeper to 180 feet would be better, but the water is still rusty, salty, and very hard on appliances and our clothes. In fact, we don’t own light colored clothes because they would all turn yellow or orange. We don’t drink this water. It’s like sucking on nails.”

His family is only one. There are hundreds more who we believe should have quality water 24/7 from their tap. That’s why SWA aggressively increased its efforts to acquire additional funding. The North Dakota State Legislature approved the Project’s funding request for additional development. We now have the money to expand, but what we still need are all the required easements to be able to move forward.

Please talk to anyone who has been approached by SWA of the importance of granting easements and signing up for water service. In this day in age, its time for all residents to have affordable, high quality water.

“Everyone benefits from a regionalized economy-of-scale system that the SWPP delivers as a cost-effective operation.”  
*Randy Becker, resident* 💧

## Are you ready for a change?



Interested in being part of the team that is bringing quality water to southwest North Dakota? Join Southwest Water Authority. Check our jobs page online and apply! EOE  
[www.swwater.com](http://www.swwater.com)

- Water Treatment Plant Operator
- Water Distribution Operator
- Water Distribution Maintenance Worker
- Public Relations Specialist



## Online Bill Pay!!

You can now use a credit card or checking account to make a payment to SWA using a secure internet-based payment service. Do note there is a convenience fee for credit card processing.

Please review our website at [www.SWwater.com](http://www.SWwater.com) or contact a customer service representative at 701-225-0241 for additional information or to set up a secure on-line bill pay account.

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## The Beauty and Smells of Fall



During late fall, deep lakes, like Sakakawea, surface waters' temperatures start cooling down. Think of whisking raw eggs in a bowl of oil. When the bottom of a deep lake becomes much warmer (lighter) than its surface water, the top and the bottom of the lake's water layers switch places. Then, add in Mother Nature's natural mixer (wind) and the lake literally mixes its water layers until the water temperature at all depths reaches approximately the same (39° F) temperature. This process is called lake "turnover."

This turnover is actually Mother Nature's way of preparing the lake's plant and aquatic life for the winter. This phenomenon happens in ALL deep lakes, whether a lake is in North Dakota or the Great Lakes of the Midwest - they all go through (spring and fall) seasonal changes. The turning over of a lake, however, has a somewhat smelly side effect.

That's because as the lake mixes, plant materials are disrupted. Naturally occurring organic compounds are released during this process and are the cause of the 'musty' or 'earthy' smell. The odors can be unpleasant, but do not affect the quality of our drinking water.

While we can't control the light or temperature of the lake or the temporary 'earthy' smell this time of year, we can help reduce the duration of this seasonal occurrence. And that's why we pretreat the water. The pre-treatment significantly cuts down on the lake's turnover effect, which gets rid of the unpleasant odor much faster. Hopefully, this year, we will enjoy only the nicer smells of fall. 💧

## Got Satellite-Read Meter?

If you are an SWA customer who will have satellite-read meter, please be sure your contractor installs a post (per specification) so the satellite read equipment can be installed. It is important to know that this equipment must be connected to a post in conjunction with the tap water being turned on. If you have a basement meter, the line running outside will need a southern exposure and clear view to the sky.

**Our Vision:**  
People and Business  
Succeeding with  
Quality Water

**Our Mission:**  
Quality Water for  
Southwest  
North Dakota

**Water Works** is the  
Official Publication of the  
Southwest Water Authority and  
the Southwest Pipeline Project.

Visit our new website...from job  
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Southwest Water Authority does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, marital status or disability in employment or the provision of services.

## Welcome New Employees



**Jen Murray, Executive Assistant**

*Jenifer holds a Bachelor's Degree in Biology and Environmental Health with a Minor in Chemistry from Dickinson State University. Past experience includes laboratory technician and administrative assistant at INBRE Cancer Research Lab. She and husband Brian have one son.*

**Emmanuel Aryeetey, Water Treatment Plant Operator**

*A big soccer fan, Emmanuel holds an Associate Degree in Process Plant Technology and Electrical Electronics Engineering. Previously, he worked as a manufacture technician engineer and chemical operator.*



**Gerald Mostad, Water Distribution Operator - Elgin Office**

*An environmental science graduate, Gerald was a water plant operator for the City of Minot. He and wife Linda have six children and eight grandchildren.*

**Jerry Whittington, Water Distribution Maintenance Worker II**

*A fishing and hunting enthusiast, we welcome Jerry to the Southwest Water Authority. He has one daughter.*



**Maria Chambers, Administrative Assistant**

*A recent newcomer to Dickinson from California, Maria has administrative experience with Ford Motor Credit, Eisenhower Medical Center, USPS, banks and the military. She is married with two children and two grandchildren.*

## SWA Board of Directors



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## Don't Let Easements or Signups Hold Up Your Water



If you have been contacted by us to grant an easement or signup, then it is finally possible to construct the much-needed rural water lines to serve families and businesses in your area! Even though more than 4,000 miles of pipeline have been built since the inception of the SWPP, there are still many people who are not receiving clean, affordable, quality water. This is where you can now make a significant difference in the lives of your neighbors and region, as well as secure your own water future.

Property owner consent is required for voluntary easements to be authorized. By doing so, you allow the SWPP access to install rural water pipelines across both private and public lands to bring high quality water to more people.

Please help the continued development of the Project by signing and returning the easements you have been sent. Easements must be notarized to be valid. If you have been contacted by us to grant an easement, please join the almost 10,000 people who understand the importance of our mission to provide quality water to southwest North Dakota. 💧