



[www.nomaoffice.com](http://www.nomaoffice.com)

# New Oxford Municipal Authority

409 Water Works Road  
New Oxford, PA 17350  
Phone: (717) 624-9399  
Fax: (717) 624-1996

## FIRE AND WATER

Issue 6 August/September 2015

### **Who would have known that a fire in another town not too far away would cause such an impact on the customers of NOMA?**

On June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015 a fire at Miller Chemical, a fertilizer plant located in Hanover, changed the way NOMA and NOMA's customers would respond to such an event. NOMA has plans and procedures for events like this, but it is never quite the same when planning for an event of this nature as when the event has to be experienced. NOMA's main concern that morning was the customers and upholding the promise NOMA makes every day to provide safe clean water to their customers. At the time, everyone was unsure what impact the fire would have. The fire department responded and put the fire out, but the water used to extinguish the fire caused a chain reaction of events that NOMA and its customers were not expecting.

### **Who really thinks about where all the water goes when fighting a fire?**

Well in the case of this fire, the runoff water found its way to a little stream called Slagel Run. From there, the water entered the South Branch of the Conewago Creek, leading to the doorstep of NOMA's intake. The problem being that as this water was used to fight the fire, it picked up and washed the chemicals used at the Miller Chemical facility with it into Slagel Run and ultimately into the South Branch of the Conewago Creek. NOMA's response was to shut down and stop producing water before the contaminants reached the intake. NOMA has approximately 2.5 to 3 million gallons of clean water in storage. As the fire progressed and the efforts to fight the fire continued, the real effects of the fire started to become apparent. Ultimately the chemicals that were

washed into the creek caused the creek to be contaminated. Approximately 10,000 fish died and other animals that lived in and around the water began to migrate to safer habitats. Also as a result of the contamination, NOMA was unable to use the water to supply their customers.



### **What is NOMA's plan in a situation like this?**

Obviously every situation is different and 3 million gallons of stored water was not enough to supply the customers for a long period of time, so NOMA reached out to York Water Company to enact an interconnect agreement that was created years prior to this event. In doing so, NOMA began purchasing water to supply the customers. Due to the depletion of the stored water, NOMA worked with DEP and began hauling purchased water from Gettysburg Municipal Authority as well as Hanover Municipal Water Works to replenish the supply. To maintain the supply, NOMA had to issue restrictions to the residents and customers for essential usage only and in addition, issued an additional mandatory 25% reduction of usage to three major industrial customers on the system. With the cooperation of everyone involved,

*Please remember to update your contact information with NOMA. This information is important to keep customers informed of important or emergency events. Contact the office or email [office@nomaoffice.com](mailto:office@nomaoffice.com).*

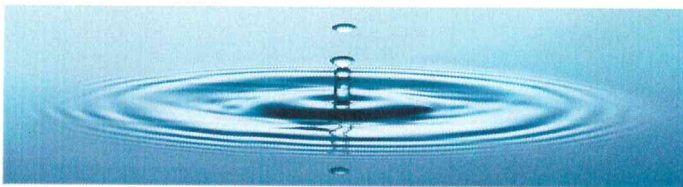


NOMA was able to replenish and maintain its supply and storage within a few weeks. In doing so, NOMA was able to lift all restrictions and ask residents and customers to be vigilant in their water usage and voluntarily conserve where and when possible while still dealing with the effects of this event.

**What does the future hold for NOMA?**

While NOMA is still purchasing water from York Water Company, we are patiently waiting and working towards being able to again produce clean safe water for our customers. This has always been the top priority and will remain a top priority. NOMA is still learning from this event and the effects of it. New equipment has been purchased to work with our existing equipment to detect a broad range of contaminants in the water that may flow with the creek. All this equipment will monitor and in situations of unsafe contaminants, it will notify the operators and shut down the plant if these are present beyond the acceptable limits. This will help maintain the standards of the Safe Drinking Water Act as well as the high standards of NOMA to provide all our customers with safe clean water.

As some of the animals and the fish once again return, NOMA is still recovering and learning from this. One thing NOMA did learn is that we can count on all our customers to help in a time of need. NOMA's staff and Board Members would like to thank all the customers for their patience and cooperation during this emergency event.



**2014 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT**

The 2014 Annual Water Quality Report or Consumer Confidence Report (CCR Report) is now available to be viewed on NOMA's website ([www.nomaoffice.com](http://www.nomaoffice.com)).

Just type <http://www.nomaoffice.com/annual-water-quality-reports/> to access the report on line, or contact NOMA's office at (717) 624-9399 to have a copy mailed.



Don't forget to check out the new Customer Portal for eBilling and Online Bill Paying. Go to [www.nomaoffice.com](http://www.nomaoffice.com) and register your account today.



**Got Drugs?**

Turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal here



**10<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL TAKE-BACK INITIATIVE**

**Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**10:00AM to 2:00PM**

As with the previous events, sites will be set up throughout communities nationwide so local residents can return their unwanted, unneeded, or expired prescription drugs for safe disposal.

Collection sites in every local community can be found by going to [www.dea.gov](http://www.dea.gov). This site will be continuously updated with new take-back locations.

This event addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Many Americans are not aware that medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are at alarming rates, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. In addition, many Americans do not know how to properly dispose of their unused medicine, often flushing them down the toilet or throwing them away – both potential safety and health hazards.

In the previous nine Take-Back events nationwide from 2010-2014, 4,823,251 pounds, or 2,411 tons of drugs were collected.

**NOMA Board Members:**

John Spalding	Chairman
Stanley Wannop	Vice Chairman
Tom Olshanski	Secretary
Albert Gallo	Treasurer
Guillermo L. Bosch	Personnel