



DRINKING WATER CHLORINATION FAQ

January 25, 2012

Why do we need to treat our water?

The Village has been on a Boil Water Notice imposed by the Interior Health Authority (IHA) since February of 2011. Testing has shown that persistent, low levels of total coliforms have been detected in the system. These coliforms have resulted in the village utility not meeting the requirements of the BC Drinking Water Protection Regulation.

Where are the total coliforms coming from?

The majority of the coliforms have been recorded at the well site, however the distribution system has also received many coliform hits during sampling.

Why hasn't our water been treated for the last 50 years?

Legislation regarding drinking water regulation has changed over the years and legislation regarding public safety has increased. This legislation impacts the amount of testing the village completes for water quality. While source water treatment wasn't mandated in the past, it is being mandated in all public water supply systems in B.C. now.

I have heard that we have had enough recent clear water samples to be removed from the boil water notice, why are we now planning to treat our water?

The Village has been approved for a \$1.29 million grant through the federal Gas Tax Fund. The project scope for this funding includes a water treatment facility.

Would the Village implement water treatment if we did not receive this grant?

IHA is working to have all municipal water suppliers move to becoming compliant with the 4-3-2-1-0 treatment protocol. It would eventually become a requirement that the Village implement a minimum of secondary chlorination. The Village is being proactive and taking advantage of grant funding available so an excessive burden is not imposed on the rate payers in the future.

Why have our water samples been clear over the previous few months?

With the colder weather, outdoor irrigation is eliminated and water demand is reduced significantly. One potential source of the bacteria is nearby surface water. The reduction in demand slows the rate at which water is drawn from the aquifer and potentially slows the flow of bacteria to the wells.

Why can't we wait until we are ordered to chlorinate?

Infrastructure planning and asset management are becoming critical as infrastructure ages. 100% grant funding for the replacement of one of our wells, along with the back-up generator vastly improves the infrastructure deficit of the Village. A chlorination facility and water main upgrades to provide a dedicated main to the reservoirs are additional future costs for the Village that are 100% funded with this grant.

How much chlorine will be in the water?

The Village will probably start injecting chlorine into the system at a rate of 1 milligram per litre of water (one part per million). The minimum chlorine residual required at the distribution extremities is 0.2 parts per million.