



WATERnews

END OF BOIL WATER ADVISORY

The Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) has lifted the Boil Water Advisory that was initiated on September 8, 2011. Water test results from three consecutive days of water sampling in the Surfside Water Service Area have come back clear of E.Coli bacteria.

No E.Coli bacteria are present in the water system.

Working in conjunction with the designated VIHA Drinking Water Officer, the RDN Water Services staff sampled the water system on three consecutive days (Sept. 13, 14 & 15) for bacterial analysis at three separate laboratories, including the RDN Water Services facility.

In addition, RDN staff undertook a review of the water supply and well head and found no evidence of an E.Coli contamination source in the system.

WATER SUPPLY RISK IS LOW

The Surfside water system is supplied by two wells at a depth of approximately 10 metres (33 ft). This water supply has proven to be healthy over the years. However, updated provincial drinking water standards suggest that community supply wells be treated if they are less than 15.2 metres (50 ft) deep.

VIHA has requested that the RDN investigate possible treatment options for the Surfside water system in order to meet current standards. RDN staff will review this request and provide further information to residents by the Spring of 2012.

NEXT STEPS

Given the concerns raised by residents regarding the initial positive result for E. Coli and the subsequent need for a boil water advisory, the introduction of low amounts of chlorine will begin once the advisory is lifted. This will significantly reduce the possibility of harmful bacteria in the system.

RDN staff will continue to carry out weekly distribution system water sampling and twice weekly samples for VIHA. In addition, staff will also sample source water at the well head each week. Analysis of these weekly tests will be carried out by both the RDN and a separate accredited laboratory.

The additional testing, laboratory analysis and addition of chlorine will continue until the end of the year, after which the water testing frequency will be re-evaluated. In early 2012, a meeting with Surfside residents will be arranged to review the existing water system and possible treatment options.

QUESTIONS?

Please contact us at **(250) 954-3792**
(RDN Water Services Administration) or
(250) 248-4914 (Water Services Field Office)
or e-mail rcu@rdn.bc.ca

