

Surfside Water Service Area Public Meeting – April 25th

In September of 2011, the residents of the Surfside Water Service area experienced a Boil Water Advisory resulting from a positive E. Coli reading found as part of our routine water quality sampling process.

The advisory was lifted after a significant level of activity including chlorination of the mains, pressure testing the system and re-sampling and testing. At that time, RDN staff committed to meeting with residents to review this event, actions taken and the subsequent outcomes. The resident's meeting was held on Wednesday, April 25th, 2012 at the Little Qualicum Hall in Dashwood.

Mike Donnelly, Manager of Water & Utility Services, Regional District of Nanaimo, Lynn Magee, Regional Drinking Water Coordinator, VIHA and Shaun Malakoe, Senior Environmental Health Officer, VIHA attended the meeting. Mr. Donnelly provided an overview of the events of September 2011 including sampling and testing protocols, VIHA's role in health protection, the advisory trigger, the RDN's response, follow up and the current status of the water system. A copy of the presentation is provided below.

Key points in the discussion centered on the need for continued use of chlorination in the water system. The groundwater supply is drawn from a shallow un-confined aquifer, approximately 30 feet deep. This water supply is not protected from surface contamination and is considered highly vulnerable. While this system has operated for a number of years without any evident illness related to the supply, current VIHA requirements for systems of this nature require chlorination. Chlorination also has operational benefits by reducing bio film in the water mains, another important aspect of providing healthy water.

Some residents in attendance noted that they have experienced an unpleasant taste in the water associated with the use of chlorine. Chlorine levels will be reviewed by RDN and VIHA representatives to determine a lower dosing rate that should help in reducing noticeable chlorine tastes. In addition, the existing chlorine pump will be replaced with a more advanced model in an effort to provide enhanced control of the injection rate.

These steps will provide safer water and improved aesthetic water quality for residents of the Surfside Water Service area.

This information will be provided to residents in the form of a news-letter which will be delivered to your homes.

If you have any questions please contact Water & Utility Services at 1-877-607-4111.