



South East Kelowna Irrigation District

PUBLIC HEALTH

Boil Water Advisory in effect

On April 23rd the South East Kelowna Irrigation District issued a PRECAUTIONARY BOIL WATER NOTICE for users on the surface water system. The order is effective immediately and remains in effect until further notice. This order does not include residents in the Hall Road area who receive well water.

Why has this notice been issued?

Testing shows that current water quality is POOR due to increased turbidity, or cloudiness. The Boil Water Notice is required due to increased turbidity in source water from Hydraulic Creek (see story page 2). The melting snow at the lower elevations has increased flow at the District intake causing the turbidity to increase above an average of 5 NTUs.

What should the public do?

During a boil water notice, tap water used for drinking, brushing teeth, or rinsing ready-to-eat-foods

Notice of Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Landowners of the South East Kelowna Irrigation District will be held on Thursday May 17, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the boardroom of the South East Kelowna Irrigation District, 3235 Gulley Road, Kelowna, B.C.

Items to be presented and approved at this meeting include:

- Minutes of the Annual Meeting of May 18, 2011
- Trustees' Annual Report
- Manager's Annual Report
- Financial Report for the year ended December 31, 2011
- 2012 Budget
- 2012 Trustee's Honorarium
- New Business

Copies of the financial statements will be mailed on request or may be picked up at the District office after April 30, 2012.

There are three Trustees positions available in 2012: a two (2) year term remaining from a three year term (the incumbent stepped down), and two three (3) year terms. Nominations for the election of three Trustees will be accepted up to 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 18, 2012.

If more than three nominations are received to fill the vacant positions, an election will be required. **The date of the election will be Thursday, May 31, 2012, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.** An advance poll will be Thursday, May 24, 2012 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The terms of each nominee will be determined by the Chief Election Officer.

Darlene McKnight
Secretary/Treasurer

should be brought to a rolling boil for one minute.

Who should be careful?

"Owners of all public facilities must post Boil Water Notices at all sinks or drinking water fountains accessible to the public (alternatively, public fountains and taps may be turned off). As opportunities arise, they must also advise their clientele verbally of the Boil Water Order."

Interior Health has been consulted and is fully involved in this notification. The South East Kelowna Irrigation District apologizes for any inconvenience this notification might cause our customers and appreciate your cooperation and patience during this time. The length of time the Boil Water Notice will be in effect is unknown at this time, but turbidity will likely trend lower towards the middle to end of May.

The public will be notified when conditions allow the Boil Water Notice to be rescinded to a Water Quality Advisory.

When will this notice be lifted?

We expect average Turbidity will fall below the 5 NTU range near the middle to end of May. When this occurs the notice will be downgraded to a Water Quality Advisory and additional information will be made available at that time.

WATER QUALITY

Spring Runoff

Spring runoff is just underway after a late winter surge of cool weather. Each year the District has turbidity problems (cloudy water) associated with spring runoff. The problem is caused by high flows in Hydraulic Creek (where our intake is located) caused by the melting of snow below our reservoir. The melting snow causes the creek to rise and wash tiny particles of clay, silt, organic and inorganic matter, plankton and other microscopic organisms into the District's intake. The smaller particles pass through our screens and are disinfected with chlorine before entering the distribution system.

The District has no control over the lower elevation runoff and this year it looks like those flows will likely peak in early May, a week or two later than normal. There is also a fair amount of snow at the lower levels and this could melt quickly if temperatures return to seasonal values. Of course, how

quickly the runoff melts will affect the turbidity levels in our surface water supply.

It is important to understand that turbidity is not the only factor that needs to be assessed to measure the health risk of a water supply. Other considerations include the presence of pathogens in the

watershed and the effectiveness of the disinfection process in rendering pathogens harmless. Turbidity is an important parameter in drinking water because bacteria, viruses and parasites (pathogens) can attach themselves to the suspended particles and this can interfere with

Share your thoughts about water use:

The Okanagan's Water: What is important to you?

We are supporting a Simon Fraser University study on residential water use and *we want your input*. Go online to www.waterstudy.ca and complete a short survey before May 30, and you can enter to win a **prize!**



www.waterstudy.ca

We want your input!

Customer input will help the District plan for allocating water during drought conditions and establishing a strong foundation for future water and community plans.

Already randomly selected District customers have given a wide variety of opinions on water efficiency, landscapes, investing in new water supplies and what water uses are important to preserve and where water savings should come from in times of drought. As we balance the unique aspects of our water supply, the results of this survey will be important for the District to learn what is important for our customers.

Please respond by May 30th!

The residential water study is currently collecting input until May 30, 2012. Some customers received an invitation in the mail to participate in the survey and if you have already completed the survey, thank you very much. If not, domestic water users can do so by visiting the web address www.waterstudy.ca and completing the short 20-minute survey. To access the study, enter "www.waterstudy.ca" into your web browser's top address bar and follow the instructions on the screen (do not use your web search engine).

Survey responses are being collected and analysed by Simon Fraser University. Participation in the survey is completely anonymous and confidential. As a token of appreciation, Simon Fraser University is offering a prize draw for everyone who completes a survey and results of the study will be available on the District web site in the future.

For more information about the study or survey, please contact the project investigator, Steve Conrad, Simon Fraser University, at (604) 649-6746 or ok-waterstudy@sfu.ca.

disinfection by shielding contaminants from the disinfectant.

As always, our water system operators are proactively increasing chlorine dosages ahead of rising turbidity to maintain adequate chlorine residual throughout the distribution system. Our customers are reminded that the Provincial Health Officer recommends that anyone with a compromised immune system should avoid drinking surface water that has not been filtered and this is particularly sound advice during this time of year.

SEKID regularly updates our web site at www.sekid.ca with water quality information and we have also implemented an email notification system at the Kelowna Joint Water Committee web site www.kjwc.org.

WATER QUALITY

Water Quality Improvement Plan Nears Completion

In 2007 the District completed a full review of all the options available to provide residents of the District with a clean, safe and affordable supply of potable water. Because of the tremendous volume of irrigation water used on farmland in the District, the report concludes the high cost to treat all that water

leaves the development of a separate domestic water supply as the only viable option – by reducing the volume of water needed, overall project costs decline.

After considerable deliberation of the available options the Board of Trustees concluded the best source for potable water for the domestic system is groundwater. This option includes developing two new wells in addition to the existing wells in the District and distributing the water through a combination of existing infrastructure in the higher density urban areas of the District and constructing a separate domestic system in the rural areas. The rural farmland will use the current surface water supply for irrigating crops and the groundwater supply for in-home domestic use.

While the well water supply is among the least expensive of the options assessed, there will be a significant impact on rates if the improvements are fully funded by SEKID. The Board of Trustees has been actively pursuing Provincial infrastructure grant money since completion of the 2007 options review. These efforts have not been successful to date and, given the current state of the Provincial balance sheet, it seems unlikely this will change in the near future.

Moving forward with the plan, the District hired CTQ Consultants to work through the pre-design for the domestic system and their report is now nearing completion. This work identifies the layout of the new domestic system and provides more accurate information about project costs. Once the costs are determined, additional work will be done on

determining the most effective and fair rate structures to cover those costs.

The next step will involve public consultation with our rate payers to gain approval to obtain the funds necessary to move forward with the improvements. We expect to hold a number of public meetings to review the proposal, providing a number of opportunities for the public to get detailed information on the project.

WATER USE EFFICIENCY

2012 Irrigation Allotments

All landowners in the District with metered irrigation services were mailed their annual allotment for the 2012 irrigation season in late April. All metered irrigation services have a maximum water use allotment of 2.25 acre-feet (733,162 U.S. gallons) per acre of Grade A or B water rights. Allotment notices also provided the maximum rate of flow allowed for the property.

For more information on the metered rate and irrigation regulations, including a more detailed explanation of how to read your meter, please contact the District office or visit our web site at www.sekid.ca and go to “conservation/agricultural metering program.”

Domestic Watering

Restrictions

We are now into the second year of the odd/even system for domestic sprinkling: odd numbered addresses will water on odd numbered dates and even numbered addresses will water on even dates.

There is no change to the times residents are allowed to water. For those residents with in-ground automatic sprinkling systems the hours are 12:00 midnight to 6:00 A.M. For those watering by hose sprinkling times are from 6:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. and from 6:00 P.M. to midnight.

For more information on domestic watering regulation please visit www.sekid.ca.

WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS

Kelowna Integrated Water Supply Plan

It is common for residents of Kelowna to wonder why the City has five major water suppliers. One of the answers is agriculture.

Agriculture was a primary driver of land development in the Okanagan and agricultural development around Kelowna was driven by access to water and the critical water systems that provide irrigation for crops.

In the 1920s these water systems were organized as public bodies.

The authority to regulate water and collect fees through taxes and tolls was granted through Letters Patent by the Provincial Government to an elected Board of Trustees who are fully accountable to the landowners they serve. This remains the way many of the citizens of Kelowna get their water today.

The water needs of Kelowna are unique in BC and Canada. Agricultural water use boosts water demand to a volume typical of an urban centre with three or four times the population of Kelowna.

In B.C. only the Metro-Vancouver water utility provides a greater annual volume of water than the five major Kelowna water suppliers.

In light of increasing concerns for the quality and safety of our water supply over the past decade a unanimous agreement was struck among the five major utilities to take a collective approach to addressing these challenges.

On September 15, 2010 Kelowna's five major water purveyors who make up the Kelowna Joint Water Committee (KJWC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to develop the City

of Kelowna Integrated Water Supply Plan (KIWSP).

Kelowna City Council along with the four elected Boards of Trustees from the Black Mountain Irrigation District, Glenmore-Ellison Improvement District, Rutland Waterworks and the South East Kelowna Irrigation District, unanimously ratified the agreement.

Now, after considerable time and effort, the report is nearing completion. It provides an excellent synopsis of the technical solutions needed to provide the best lowest cost solution for water quality improvements, including agreement on the priority of each project and a phased implementation plan for water system improvements.

While the challenges of providing safe, potable water to the residents of Kelowna are primarily technical and thoroughly addressed in the report, the preliminary work on governance in the report indicates additional work on the best long-term governance model for carrying out the plan is warranted.

This view is shared by SEKID's Board of Trustees.

South East Kelowna Irrigation District
PO Box 28064 RPO East Kelowna
Kelowna, BC V1W 4A6
P: (250) 861-4200 F: (250) 861-4213
W: www.sekid.ca E: info@sekid.ca

