



COLUMBIA SHUSWAP REGIONAL DISTRICT

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June 3, 2019

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To Nicholson Property Owner

RE: Nicholson Aquifer Groundwater Monitoring

In 2019, the Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSR D), with funding support from Interior Health (IH), will be conducting spring and fall water quality assessment work in the Nicholson Aquifer. The results of these samples will be compared to historical groundwater monitoring data to determine if the water quality is deteriorating, and will be shared with the public at a community meeting to be held in the fall of 2019.

As you know, the CSR D has expressed concerns with the deteriorating water quality in the Nicholson Aquifer. On October 29, 2014, the CSR D held a public meeting at the Nicholson Elementary School to share information, recommendations and options resulting from the 2005 - 2013 groundwater monitoring program. The monitoring data confirmed that the groundwater in the Nicholson Aquifer was being impacted by septic influences, which is a health and environmental concern. Options to mitigate the health risk were presented and included suggestions for in-home treatment. The community expressed a disinterest for the CSR D to establish a service area to fund mitigation options or to fund continued monitoring efforts. As a result, the ground water monitoring program was discontinued.

In 2017, water quality tests performed at the Nicholson Elementary School by School District No. 6 identified elevated nitrates within the school's drinking water system. Subsequently, IH placed the school's water system on a Do Not Consume order. The Do Not Consume Order remains in effect.

IH has recently requested that the CSR D contribute to a monitoring program in 2019 to investigate broader impacts to the aquifer. The CSR D has committed to contribute and perform two sampling events and testing of the aquifer in 2019 only, from a special projects fund. The results will be compared to historical records and shared with the public at a community meeting to be held in the fall of 2019.

The CSR D has developed a website to share information related to the impacts on the Nicholson Aquifer and the monitoring work completed to date:

<https://www.csr.bc.ca/services/groundwater-monitoring/nicholson-water-quality-monitoring>

The website contains historical information including options presented to residents at the October 29, 2014 public meeting and information on the health risks associated with exposure to elevated nitrate levels, along with protective measures that can be taken. CSR D encourages residents in the area to monitor the website for updates. The CSR D will notify property owners of the fall community meeting date once it has been determined. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned directly at 250.833.5941 or email bvannostrand@csr.bc.ca.

Yours truly,

COLUMBIA SHUSWAP REGIONAL DISTRICT

Per:

Ben Van Nostrand, Team Leader
Environmental Health Services

cc Darcy Mooney, Manager, Operations Management
Gordon Moseley, Specialist EHO, Interior Health

ELECTORAL AREAS

A GOLDEN-COLUMBIA
B REVELSTOKE-COLUMBIA

C SOUTH SHUSWAP
D FALKLAND-SALMON VALLEY

E SICAMOUS-MALAKWA
F NORTH SHUSWAP-SEYMOUR ARM

MUNICIPALITIES

GOLDEN
REVELSTOKE
SALMON ARM
SICAMOUS