

Subject: RE: poor water quality on the north shore-action?

Date: Wed, 1 Jun 2005 20:29:55 -0700

From: "Ernie Crist" <ernie_crist@dnv.org>

To: "Robert Huffman" <Robert_Huffman@dnv.org>, <the_royles@shaw.ca>

CC: "Judy Short" <Judy_Short@dnv.org>, "Linda Brick" <Linda_Brick@dnv.org>, "Jozsef Dioszeghy" <Jozsef_Dioszeghy@dnv.org>, "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>, <fonvca@fonvca.org>, "Senior Management Committee" <managecomm@dnv.org>, "James Ridge" <James_Ridge@dnv.org>

Dear Mrs Royal "

You raise some excellent questions. However, the bottom line is that the GVWD has never commissioned one single comprehensive long term plan of all the water resources in the Lower Mainland. Neither has there been a comprehensive cost analysis of accessing these resources been done even though a hundred studies have been conducted. The resources we have and which include Pitt Lake for example are sufficient to feed at least 20 million people without treating the water.

Unfortunately we are not thinking along such lines in our present day culture which is ad hoc. Instead we are spending hundreds of millions of dollars on upgrading facilities that are outdated, small and even subject to environmental hazards such as the Cleveland Dam which sits on an ecological fault line not to speak of the substandard quality which makes the filtration necessary. .

All this has been pointed out by the experts time and time again. But so lethargic is this society that we go along with the most expensive, the most inefficient, and the most environmentally incompatible solutions possible.

You are questioning staff about the rationale of this issue, but the truth is that it is not the staff but the unbelievable incompetence of the body politic at the GVRD and the local government level which makes this possible.

Ernie Crist

Dear Mrs. Royle:

Your e-mail has been forwarded to me for response. This is the third year that the water quality advisory notice you refer to has been included with the tax notices. The wording of the notice was dictated by the Medical Health Officer (MHO) for the North Shore, who also required that the notice be sent out in this manner. I think the point you make regarding infants is valid and should be reviewed by the Medical Health Officer, because as you seem to be aware, there is a longstanding province-wide public notice from the Provincial Health Officer recommending the use of boiled water for formula for infants under 3 months of age. I will forward your comments to the MHO for his consideration.

You have asked what the District is doing to solve this problem and improve water quality. The District purchases all of its drinking water from the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD). Quality drinking water is a high priority for the GVRD and its member municipalities. The current regional sources of potable water - Cleveland Dam, Seymour Falls and Coquitlam Dam - are in the undeveloped mountain back country in closed watersheds, which provides a level of protection against

contamination. The current regime of water treatment is chlorination and meets federal and provincial drinking water standards, however occasional high turbidity (cloudiness in the water) during winter storms does not meet current water quality standards. The filtration project currently underway for the Capilano and Seymour sources will not only remove the turbidity, it will also remove the parasites and cysts which pose the potential risks to immunocompromised persons. It will also allow the amount of chlorine currently used as a primary disinfectant to be significantly reduced, because the chlorine "residual" that is required to be maintained in the water as it travels through the water system to customers is not used up as quickly in cleaner, filtered water.

The filtration project, which is being built by the GVRD within the District, is a massive undertaking and unfortunately can't be completed overnight. The District, including members of Council and the public, is facilitating the expeditious completion of the project by working directly with the GVRD and its project managers in an advisory committee to overcome the many issues that arise which could delay such a project, while at the same time protecting the interests of District residents.

I hope this information has been of some help in explaining the advisory notice and the project. Please contact me if you would like further information.

Yours truly,

Bob Huffman
Manager, Utilities
District of North Vancouver
604-990-3861

From: Jozsef Dioszeghy
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2005 3:10 PM
To: Robert Huffman
Cc: Judy Short; Linda Brick
Subject: FW: poor water quality on the north shore-action?

Bob,

Would you please respond on my behalf.

Thanks

Jozsef

From: Linda Brick
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2005 2:11 PM
To: 'The_Royles'
Cc: Jozsef Dioszeghy
Subject: RE: poor water quality on the north shore-action?

Dear Ms Royle,

Thank you for your letter dated May 31, 2005 regarding water quality. Your letter will be circulated to the Mayor and Council for their consideration and by copy of this reply your letter will be forwarded to the Director of Engineering Services for a response to your concerns.

Sincerely,
Linda Brick

Clerk's Office

From: The_Royles [mailto:the_royles@shaw.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2005 1:27 PM
To: DNVCouncil
Subject: poor water quality on the north shore-action?

Dear Mayor Harris & Council

I was disturbed to read the advisory notice that came with my property taxes this morning. I then read the cover letter to council on the web where the consultant says that a new filtration plant (to be built in a couple of years time) would 'greatly improve' the water quality.

I have an infant and a toddler at home. I saw no mention of this group in the newsletter that stated that those with compromised immune systems shouldnt drink the tap water. Usually, when discussing groups with immune system concerns, very young children are included. Was this group not included so that the District would not have to deal with irate parents who are forced to boil tap water for their children (It was interesting to receive this information with our tax notice-arent our taxes supposed to pay for water service?). Babies are a significant group within the 'immune compromised' pool, and if this water isnt good enough for people with immune system concerns, then shouldnt you be telling people not to use tap water for their small children?

I would also like to know what the District is doing to solve this problem and improve water quality. House prices are very high in the District, and thus generate significant property tax income for the municipal government. Water is a basic service of the municipal government. If providing quality drinking water is not a priority for this municipal government, then exactly what is a higher priority?

Wendy E Royle
604-986-2971

 winmail.dat	Name: winmail.dat Type: application/ms-tnef Encoding: base64
---	---