

March 21, 2020

Hagensborg Waterworks District  
P.O. Box 25  
Hagensborg, BC V0T 1H0

Central Coast Regional District  
P.O. Box 186  
Bella Coola, BC V0T 1C0

## **RE: Community Water System Serving Hagensborg**

The intent of this letter is to detail the expectations of Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) for the community water system currently operated by the Hagensborg Waterworks District (HWD). We realize both Boards are likely occupied with the process of dissolving the Improvement District and transferring the governance of the system over to the Central Coast Regional District (CCRD). However water system projects do take some time and with the upcoming transfer of governance, it is a good time to make it clear to all parties what our expectations are for this water system.

VCH requires water purveyors to provide safe potable water without a long-standing Boil Water Advisory. Water purveyors can decide what means of financial support they can obtain to meet our expectations. There is no question that the water source for the HWD requires treatment as per the Drinking Water Protection Act (DWPA) and its Regulation (DWPR). The community is fortunate to have a water source with great water chemistry; however, there is the need to effectively minimize the microbiological contamination which is an inevitable feature of all surface water sources. VCH has patiently given HWD many years to work out a plan of treating the water in the manner that would work for the community, such as the Point of Entry (POE) treatment pilot project. However, the project showed that the use of POE units to be an inviable option which was valuable information and served the objectives of the project. Since then there have been no further water treatment plans devised although we do credit the HWD Board for doing a great job in gaining access to a level of grant funding unexpected for an Improvement District.

Attached to this letter is the Drinking Water Treatment Objectives [Microbiological] for Surface Water Supplies in British Columbia which is a part of the Drinking Water Officer's Guide. This guide outlines the performance outcomes required of a water system utilizing surface water as a water source. In summary, the water system needs to minimally meet these five treatment objectives:

- 4 Log reduction (99.99%) of viruses
- 3 Log reduction (99.9%) of cysts (giardia, cryptosporidium, toxoplasmosis)
- 2 forms of treatment (chlorine plus UV or Ozone or other)
- 1 NTU turbidity (requiring treatment)
- 0 detected coliforms

After the water treatment plans have been finalized, a Construction Permit Application (CPA) will need to be submitted to our Public Health Engineer. This is an application prepared by the engineer of your choice which lays out the entire proposed changes to the water system. We understand there is an imposed deadline of August 31, 2020 to have the grant funds received by the CCRD. In order to meet this deadline, the submission of a CPA needs to be done well in advance of that deadline as a project the size of this will take some time to process.

VCH is not concerned how the money to fund the required water system upgrade project is obtained. What VCH is concerned about is the need for the water system to move towards meeting the surface water treatment objectives so the Boil Water Notice can be removed. It needs to be clearly understood that if the community loses the \$3.8 million dollar infrastructure money which has been granted to them, for whatever reason, there will still be the requirement to have a viable water system treatment plan with project timeline submitted to VCH by August 31 2020. Construction will need to commence soon afterwards.

Final note. The current Covid-19 situation is having an ever increasing impact on our society and the ability of getting tasks completed. If you start having challenges progressing with the required tasks we recommend contacting the funding providers to see about obtaining an extension to the August 31 deadline so as not to jeopardize losing the funding.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact the undersigned by phone at 604-983-6756 or email at [phil.muirhead@vch.ca](mailto:phil.muirhead@vch.ca).

Sincerely,



Phil Muirhead, CPHI(C)  
Environmental Health Officer  
Drinking Water Officer  
Central Community Health Centre  
Vancouver Coastal Health

cc: Geoff McKee; VCH Medical Health Officer - Gibsons  
Jonathan Choi; VCH Acting Manager, Health Protection - North Vancouver  
Michael Wu; VCH Public Health Engineer - Vancouver