

REPORT TO REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2020

SUBJECT **Water Quality Summary Report for Greater Victoria Drinking Water System
– December 2019 to May 2020**

ISSUE SUMMARY

To present the monitoring results for water quality conditions observed in the Greater Victoria Drinking Water System for the period of December 2019 to May 2020.

BACKGROUND

The Capital Regional District (CRD) supplies drinking water to the water distribution systems across Greater Victoria via the Regional Water Supply System. As a requirement under the *BC Drinking Water Protection Act*, the CRD monitors and reports on water quality to ensure the region's drinking water supply is safe and potable. The results are presented on a regular basis directly to the Commission and Island Health, and to the general public through the CRD website.

All public drinking water systems in BC must comply with the *BC Drinking Water Protection Act* and the *BC Drinking Water Protection Regulation*. In addition, the CRD relies upon water quality parameters in the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality and guidelines developed by the US Environmental Protection Agency to inform the CRD's water quality monitoring program.

Water quality monitoring is one of the cornerstones of the multi-barrier approach to providing safe, potable drinking water to the region's residents. The monitoring program ensures proper integration of an understanding of source waters, treatment process, distribution infrastructure operations and maintenance, and the delivery of water to customers. The program also ensures that potential risks or concerns are effectively managed to ensure a safe drinking water supply.

Appendix A summarizes the monitoring results for raw water in Sooke Lake Reservoir, the treated water at the two water treatment plants and for the treated water in various parts of the supply and distribution systems for the winter/spring period from December 2019 to May 2020.

IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Implications

The summary report indicates very good overall source water quality and good drinking water quality in all system components of the Greater Victoria Drinking Water System. The system is monitored for physical, chemical and biological water quality parameters.

Monitoring results indicate that the CRD continues to meet guidelines for maintaining an unfiltered source water supply. Data from within the distribution systems also indicates a good balance between managing bacterial growth and ensuring good water quality with low concentrations of disinfection byproducts. Metal concentrations, including lead, are very low within the distribution systems and physiochemical parameters indicate a low metal corrosion potential of the drinking water. Further corrosion studies are ongoing.

Intergovernmental Implications

The CRD also provides compliance monitoring of the municipal systems within the region to deliver effective and efficient oversight for both monitoring and reporting of water quality within the overall water system. Responding to any issues that may arise remains the responsibility of the municipalities.

Social Implications

The full disclosure of water quality monitoring data maintains public confidence in the CRD managing the regional drinking water supply effectively. The data and reports are available online through the CRD public website. Staff respond to direct customer concerns and questions, and work with CRD operational staff, municipal staff, small system operators and Island Health officials to ensure good communication and support for the overall system.

CONCLUSIONS

The water quality monitoring program remains an essential component in the delivery of a safe and abundant drinking water supply to the region. Monitoring results for winter 2019 to spring 2020 indicate good water quality overall, and all parameters indicate stable general conditions.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Regional Water Supply Commission receive the Water Quality Summary Report for the Greater Victoria Drinking Water System – December 2019 to May 2020 for information.

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ATTACHMENT

Appendix A: Water Quality Summary Report for the Greater Victoria Drinking Water System
– December 2019 to May 2020