

WATERnews

WHISKEY CREEK WATER NEWS

The purpose of this WaterNews is to keep you informed on the current state of your water system and let you know what is being done to continue to provide you with the best drinking water possible.

BACKGROUND

Crocker Creek, which is the surface water source for the Whiskey Creek Water Service Area (WSA), is prone to high levels of colour and turbidity during heavy rainfall. While the levels of colour and turbidity are high in the creek, the current intake and treatment system are unable to produce drinking water that meets the Canadian Drinking Water Guidelines. Therefore, during heavy rainfall events, the intake is shut down and the RDN Water Services staff try to keep up with water demand by trucking water to the reservoir on Poplar Way.

WHAT ARE WE DOING RIGHT NOW?

RDN staff have been hauling water with our own truck as much as possible. This helps to reduce the cost of water required to be hauled by a private trucking company.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

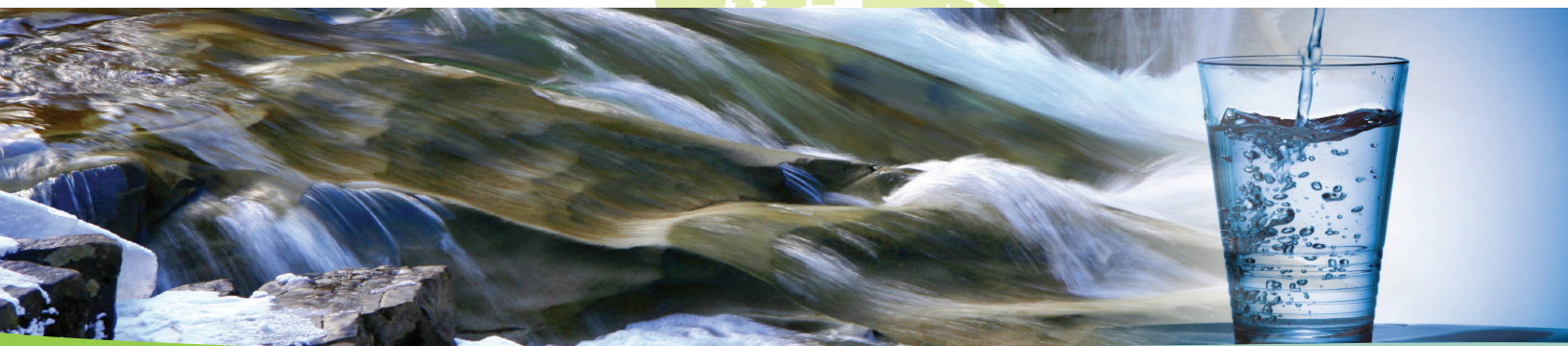
During times of heavy rainfall, if at all possible, please reduce your water use. This will help RDN staff to keep up the levels in the reservoir and reduce costs associated with hauling water.



WHAT SYSTEM UPGRADES ARE BEING CONSIDERED?

In 2014, a study was completed by Koers Engineering that considered options for treating the Crocker Creek water and estimated the costs associated with applying a solution to the Whiskey Creek WSA. This study concluded that a Dissolved Air Floatation (DAF) treatment plant, similar to the ones used on Saltspring Island, would be the best method to remove the colour and turbidity prior to chlorination. The study estimated that the costs associated with the design and construction of this system would likely be more than \$800,000.

Due to the high cost of treating the existing surface water source, the RDN is now investigating the option of a groundwater source for the Whiskey Creek WSA. If a groundwater source can be found, the capital and operational costs associated with



continued

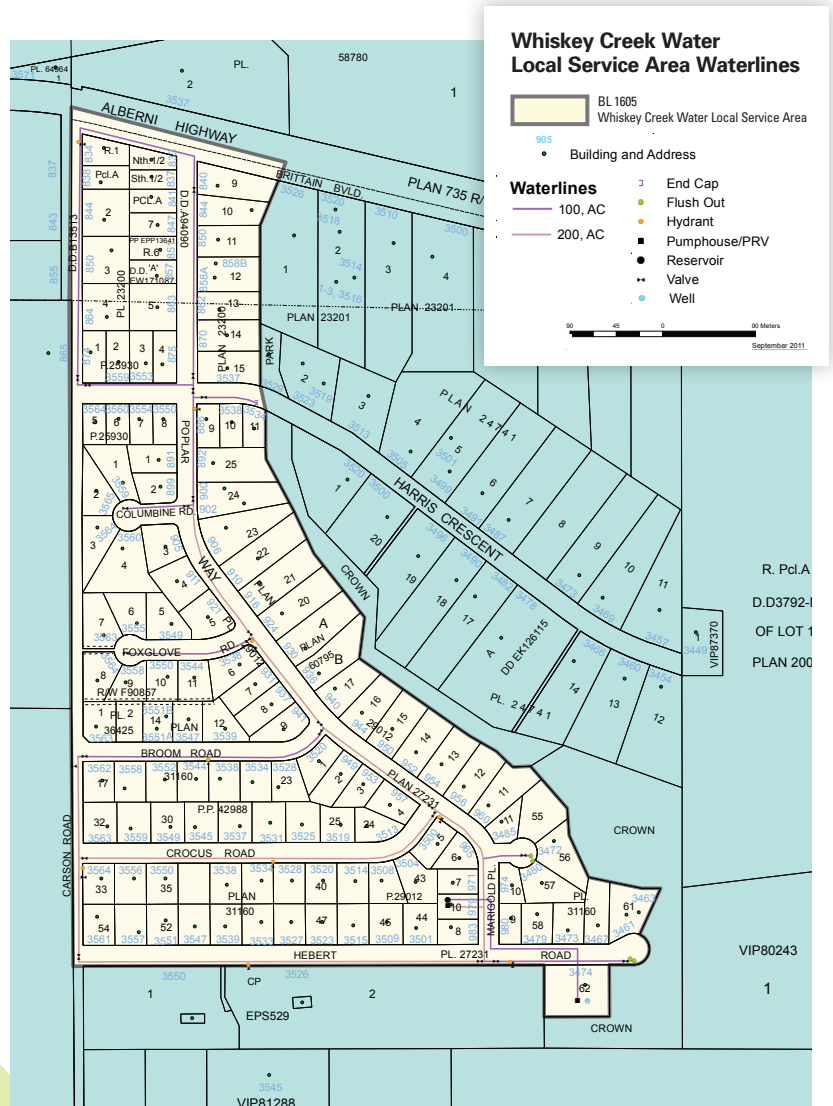
WHAT SYSTEM UPGRADES ARE BEING CONSIDERED?

transferring the system to a groundwater source would be significantly less than the surface water treatment option.

The RDN applied for and received a New Building Canada Fund – Small Communities Fund grant from the Federal and Provincial Governments to help assist with the costs of upgrading the system.

An assessment to determine a potential groundwater supply for the Whiskey Creek WSA was completed by Elanco Enterprises Ltd. in July 2015. The assessment concluded that a likely location for a groundwater supply would be to the southwest of the WSA on Provincial Crown Land. The RDN is currently pursuing a Crown Land Grant Application to gain permission to drill some test wells in the recommended areas. If successful, work to begin design of a pumphouse and transmission main from the new well site would begin in 2016 and upgrades would be completed in 2017.

Both the Koers and Elanco reports can be found on the Whiskey Creek WSA page of the RDN website at www.whiskeycreekwater.ca.



Questions?

If you have any questions please contact Water & Utility Services at 1-877-607-4111, rcu@rdn.bc.ca or visit the WaterSmart website at www.rdn.bc.ca