



WATERnews

SURFSIDE WATER SERVICE AREA

After a provincial lab test indicated the presence of E.Coli bacteria, the RDN issued its first ever Boil Water Advisory the same day, on Thursday, September 8, 2011 to the residents of the Surfside Water Service Area.

Routine water testing in the Surfside Water Service Area includes weekly bacteria samples which are tested in the RDN's Water Services laboratory in Parksville, and twice-monthly bacteria samples which are tested in VIHA's (Vancouver Island Health Authority) designated provincial laboratory in Vancouver, B.C.

No indication of E.Coli bacteria has been found in the weekly RDN samples.

TEMPORARY WATER TREATMENT

While the Surfside Water System is not normally treated with chlorine, an emergency backup chlorination system was activated upon notification of the positive bacteria sample.

On Thursday, September 8, 2011, the Surfside Water System was shock-chlorinated, and then flushed with well water to clear the water mains of any bacteria.

The water system was put back to normal operation (unchlorinated) in order to collect daily samples for bacteria analysis over the coming week. Residents must remain on the Boil Water Advisory during this period.

The RDN Water Services staff will be taking daily samples for bacteria analysis until 3 consecutive samples come back clear.

Further chlorination and flushing may be required to clear the water system of bacteria. While the RDN anticipates having the Boil Water Advisory lifted by late next week, please observe the Boil Water Advisory until further notice.

Surfside Water System residents will be kept up to date with a hand-delivered notice next week, and information will be posted at www.surfsidewater.ca

The water source for the Surfside Water Service Area comes from two groundwater wells located on the neighbouring Qualicum National Wildlife Area, a protected national reserve.

Residents are advised to boil their drinking water until further notice.

Up to date information is available on the RDN website at www.surfsidewater.ca, or by phoning the RDN Water Services Department Administration at **(250) 954-3792** or the Water Services Field Office at **(250) 248-4914**.

