

Leah Volkmann

From: Johanna Kirby <[REDACTED]>
Sent: November 24, 2021 11:38 AM
To: CRD Mailbox
Cc: Karen Paul; Gerald Kirby; Diana Tesic-Nagalingam
Subject: Tatla Lake Area Water System
Attachments: TLACA Letter to the CRD.pdf; Notification to Water System Users.pdf

To whom it may concern

Please find attached a letter from the President of the Tatla Lake Area Community Association regarding the water system of Tatla Lake.

Also, attached is a copy of the original "Do Not Consume" order. We have just had it up-dated but it says the same thing.

Thank for your time and consideration.

Johanna Kirby
Owner Operator
Tatla Lake Manor/Motel Ltd.
16417 Hwy. 20 (Box 58)
Tatla Lake, BC
V0L 1V0
250-476-1339

Vice President/Secretary
Tatla Lake Area Community Association
Box 75
Tatla Lake, BC
V0L 1V0

--

Tatla Lake Area Community Association,
Box 75,
Tatla Lake, B.C., V0L 1V0.

23 November 2021.

Att: Cariboo Regional District,
Suite D, 180 N. Third Avenue,
Williams Lake, B.C., V2G 2A4.

Dear Sir or Madam:

Re: Tatla Lake area Community, Clean, Safe, Reliable Drinking Water for Everyone

In April of 2017, *Interior Health Authority* informed the water users of the "West Chilcotin Trading" Water System that there were problems with the drinking water, the most alarming being the high arsenic levels – high enough to warrant an official "Do Not Consume" notice. Please find, attached, the said notice.

The current water supply for most of Tatla Lake comes from the "West Chilcotin Trading" Water System.

On-going discussions since 2017 between *Interior Health* and "West Chilcotin Trading" have not proven to be fruitful: no agreement to up-grade the current water system has been made, nor does it look likely to become a positive offer in the future.

This water supply reaches several businesses, which include, Store, Post Office, Service Station, Restaurant, Motel, the Community Centre (which houses, also, the CRD Library), four residences, and the *Interior Health* Medical Clinic.

In consultation with *Interior Health*, and because of the current quality of water, the well's age (installed as early as the 1940's), and the inability to come to an agreement with "West Chilcotin Trading" to supply potable water, the suggestion was made that the Community put in a new well system using the Community Centre's own property as the location. This location is central, has easy access, and offers an immediately practicable option. The Directors of the Community Association agree.

Please note that currently *all* potable water in the listed locations is being brought in from Williams Lake.

The Tatla Lake area Community Association Directors are now seeking help/input on where to go from here.

To ensure our Community has clean, potable water we are asking CRD not only for financial assistance, but also for guidance in doing the feasibility study that must be our first step in this crucial endeavour.

Sincerely

(President)

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the President.

Notification to water system users

Testing has confirmed the presence of arsenic in the West Chilcotin Trading water system, a privately operated system, at levels exceeding Health Canada guidelines. This requires the water system operator to issue a Do Not Consume notification that applies to all residents using the system.

Q1. What does this notification mean?

Due to elevated levels of arsenic, Interior Health is recommending individuals use an alternative source, such as bottled water, for drinking, food preparation, ice making and brushing teeth. Arsenic is not removed by pitcher-type filtration units, chlorination or boiling. However, the water is safe for bathing, cleaning and flushing toilets.

Q2. What are the health risks associated with arsenic in drinking water?

Drinking water containing arsenic can have serious long-term health effects. Long-term (over many years to decades) exposure to even relatively low amounts of arsenic in drinking water can increase the risk for certain cancers, including skin, lung, kidney, bladder and liver. Studies do not show greater risks of health effects in children, pregnant women or other vulnerable populations.

Q3. Why is there arsenic in the water system?

Arsenic can enter into water systems from the earth and rocks or from runoff from agriculture, mining and industrial processes. In B.C., naturally occurring arsenic is the most common source of arsenic in drinking water.

Q4. How long will this notification remain in place?

This notice will remain in effect until testing indicates that arsenic has fallen to acceptable levels for drinking water as set by Health Canada guidelines. The system operator is responsible for adopting an appropriate treatment device certified for removal of arsenic. In-home devices that can reduce the level of arsenic are also available. Water treatment methods that can remove arsenic include reverse osmosis, some filters and distillation units.

Q5. Who should I contact if I am concerned about my health?

If you are concerned about your health, please contact your family doctor.

Q6. Who can I contact for more information?

Contact the system operator, Dave Wright, at 250-476-1111. If you wish to speak with someone at Interior Health, you can contact Kimberly Porter at 250-302-5000. HealthLink B.C. has an online file on arsenic in drinking water that can be found here: <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthlinkbc-files/arsenic-drinking-water>.