



PRESS RELEASE

WATER QUALITY ADVISORY

SUN VALLEY WATER SYSTEM USERS

OCTOBER 17, 2018

In consultation with the Interior Health Authority the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen is reissuing the **Water Quality Advisory** for elevated turbidity in the **Sun Valley** water system. An increase in turbidity results in an increased risk to water safety. This **Water Quality Advisory** will remain in effect until further notice.

The source of the turbidity is iron and manganese in the source groundwater well. The iron and manganese are in a dissolved state in the groundwater. When the groundwater is pumped to the surface it enters the storage reservoir and is exposed to oxygen. The oxygen oxidizes the iron and manganese which results in the formation of iron and manganese precipitates. These precipitate particles result in elevated turbidity and the formation of coatings on the wall of the watermains which can lead to microbial regrowth. This regrowth is the suspected cause of the Total Coliform bacteria that have been reported over the past year.

What is a Water Quality Advisory?

A Water Quality Advisory is a level of notification below a Boil Water Notice. A Water Quality Advisory is used in situations where the general public health threat is modest.

Who may need additional protection?

- People with weakened immune systems or chronic illnesses
- Infants and children
- The elderly
- People wishing to seek additional protection

Precautionary Instructions

Those individuals seeking additional protection are advised to use a safe alternate source of water for all drinking, infant formula preparation, brushing teeth, food preparation/cooking purposes and ice making. Boiling the water is an option however boiling will concentrate the iron and manganese which may make the water aesthetically unpleasing. Water should be brought to a full boil and allowed to boil for at least 1 minute.

The RDOS would also like to remind all business owners/operators (bed and breakfasts) and public facilities operators that it is the responsibility of said establishments to notify their customers of the Water Quality Advisory.

For further information, please contact the Public Works Department at (250) 490-4106 or (250) 490-4135.

Thank you for your cooperation.

October 17, 2018
RDOS Public Works Department