

INFORMATION RELEASE TEMPORARY CHLORINATION

FAULDER WATER SYSTEM USERS

May 3, 2023

The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS), in consultation with the Interior Health Authority, implemented temporary chlorination of the Faulder water system on April 28th 2023. The requirement for chlorination of the system is in response to bacteriological results received from the Uranium Treatment Plant.

The Uranium Treatment Plant utilizes the process of ion exchange to remove uranium from the water. Well water containing uranium is passed through a specific resin (small spherical beads) that exchange sodium ions for uranium ions (the same principle of a water softener). Over time, this resin becomes exhausted and needs to be replaced. The RDOS recently replaced this resin, a process which involves sending out empty vessels and having the supplier fill the vessels with new media.

From the bacteriological testing the RDOS has performed, it appears that this media has become contaminated. The processes available for disinfecting the fouled media are both complex and time consuming. The RDOS has started investigating these processes and are consulting with the resin manufacturer in advance of developing a plan to address the disinfection of the media. Due to the required time to plan this work, the RDOS would like to inform the residents of Faulder that the chlorination will likely be in effect for at least the next month. The RDOS will provide further updates as information becomes available.

For further information, please contact the Utilities Department at 250-490-4135, or toll free at 1-877-610-3737. For after-hours water emergencies call Regional Dispatch at 250-490-4141.

Thank you for your cooperation.

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