

SO2 "Jack" spring source given provisional approval for use

Tuesday, August 24th, 2010

Today WWA officially received word that a spring source formerly used ("Jack" spring) and reconstructed this past spring and summer was given provisional approval for use by the Department of Health, NW Drinking Water Division. This spring source produces about 22,000 gallons per day. With this source and the cooling weather, the well will no longer need to be used. If the source passes the next and final water quality test to be taken during the "wet" season, we expect to receive full approval for this source. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact the system Manager, Doug Dolstad of Island Water Management at 206-715-3805

Arsenic Update July 27th 2010

Wednesday, July 28th, 2010

Greetings. This post is to update you on the arsenic situation this summer. As always, if you have any questions please feel free to call me (Doug) at: 206-715-3805

As anticipated with the warmer weather we have been using the well to supplement the water available to users. We know from design calculations and field measurements that the well can supply about 1/3 of the water delivered to users without exceeding the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for arsenic. The MCL is 10 parts per billion (ppb). With a couple of exceptions when the temperatures climbed into the upper 70's and 80's we have been able to stay within that standard. During the highest temperatures we were compelled to use the well at a higher flow rate for about a day and a half each episode. The ppb field measurement during this time was about 12-13 ppb. Please remember that the concern about arsenic is based on long term exposure at fairly high (+50 ppb) levels. Until 2006 in the United States, the MCL was set at 50 ppb but was changed to come into accordance with standards set by the World Health Organization.

Good news! WWA's consulting engineer has submitted a Project Report to reactivate one of WWA's former sources. This spring source would provide nearly 15 gallons per minute (gpm) or roughly 23,000 gallons per day. That's nearly 1/3 of the water users are consuming when the temperatures are up to the low 70's. We've asked for an expedited review and hope to have this clean source of water on line soon. When this source comes on line we will be able to even further reduce our use of the well and the arsenic levels will drop proportionately.

To view results, please click on this link or paste it into your web browser:

<http://spreadsheets.google.com/pub?key=0AiZrvHtz8hFidFZXOUZjaThXa2i0TG5FZmFxdDVPRHc&hl=en&output=html>

Arsenic update 2010

Wednesday, July 7th, 2010

Dear Westside Water System user,

As many of you already know, especially those who came to the annual meeting, in times of greater water need, Westside Water occasionally utilizes a well which has some naturally occurring arsenic in it. As summer seems to have finally arrived – right on time in JULY! it is likely the well will need to be used in the near future.

This is an update about the arsenic in that well water with information about how this source will be used this year.

This well has arsenic in it related to volcanic activity thousands of years ago. The level in our well is ~34 parts per billion (ppb). In 2006 the standard for arsenic was changed from 50 ppb to 10 ppb.

Your Board and Manager have worked over this past year to explore options for addressing this situation. We've had several engineers give proposals for modifying the treatment plant and are still evaluating the merits of those proposals. Meanwhile, we have decided to:

Use the well only when demand exceeds the supply from our other sources – none of which has any arsenic,

Reconstruct a former spring source to meet Dept. of Health approval,

Blend the well water with other WWA source water with the intent of staying within the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 10 ppb,

Keep you informed about the results of our testing.

We will be testing your drinking water for arsenic levels on a regular basis and posting the results on the WWA website (www.westsidewater.org/news) Follow the link to the WWA 2010 Arsenic Test Results spreadsheet.

If the arsenic level exceeds the MCL we will post Water Advisory signs and give an update on the WWA answering machine (206-567-4568) as well as posting on the web site. If you would like to be personally contacted if the MCL is exceeded, please call Doug at 206-715-3805