

Westside Water Purchases a Well

Sunday, November 17th, 2013

Westside Water has a new well! On November 16th, Westside Water Board members Pat Call and Jennifer Pratt along with System Manager Doug Dolstad sat down with Chris Anderson to sign the papers that transferred Chris' well into Westside's possession. The purchase includes the option to drill an additional well with its own "Sanitary Control Area" in the same vicinity as the existing well.

This purchase has been more than a decade in the making and traces back to a story Doug heard about "a good well" providing water to a property Chris and his wife subsequently purchased. The well has been tested and it is indeed good water. Test results show low to non-existent levels of iron and manganese and, of great importance to your Board and Manager, no arsenic. Pump tests indicate the well can provide 20 – 24 gpm continuously. As part of a developing overall plan to secure reliable sources of water for the Westside Water membership, this purchase addresses the goal of securing water sources from at least two geographic locations. Presently, all of Westside's sources are located in the Shinglemill "Canyon". Should that pump station become unavailable due to some catastrophic event, users would be out of water. Long time WWA members might recall the floods of 1988 that destroyed the old pump house and collection system. The Anderson well is located near the existing water mains on 115th Avenue (north of SW 156th) and is within the area granted to Westside by the Department of Ecology as a place from which to draw water. The Board has yet to determine a construction schedule to connect this source to the system.

Many thanks to Chris for contributing to negotiations that went smoothly and to mutual benefit. Said Chris, "I'm glad to NOT be in the water business and I'm happy to think of contributing to the community in this way". Hats off to the Westside Water Boards past and present – and especially President Denny Conner and Vice President Pat Call, who have been supportive and significantly involved at key moments during negotiations. Said Denny, "This acquisition a huge boost for WWA, not only for today but for generations to come. We had great teamwork involved in securing this source."

Low pressure, Cove Road and 115th, suspected leak

Thursday, August 8th, 2013

For the last few days several customers in the upper pressure zone (Cove Road and 115th) have reported low pressure and in some cases only a trickle of water in the evening. A review of all the service meters has not revealed a service line leak so a leak in the main is suspected. The main is under Cove Road. A professional leak detection company is being retained to assist in finding this leak. If you notice an unusual wet spot or water in the ditch alongside Cove Road please contact Island Water Management immediately. 206-715-3805

Well in use, June 2013

Saturday, June 15th, 2013

With the hot weather of early June Westside Water has put the well into service. This well water is being blended with other source water with a goal of providing "finished" water below the Safe Drinking Water

standard of 10 parts per billion (ppb). However, during the hot days, the demand for water exceeds the blended supply. In those conditions, the well is used at a higher flow rate.

The momentary finished arsenic level when the well is in use at a higher flow rate ranges from 12 ppb to 34 ppb with an average level near 12 ppb.

Please consider that arsenic is a significant health concern only at very, very high concentrations known as “acute” situations or at a high level over many many years, known as “chronic” situations. With this understanding the Safe Drinking Water Act allows for the standard to be exceeded by 25% for 25% of the time the water is put to use over the course of a year.

I find it helpful to think of arsenic like 2nd hand smoke. Breathing smoke others have produced is harmful over time. If the smoker you are around only smokes a few cigarettes a day, the effects are pretty slight. If you are in a very, very smokey place, the effects can be deadly. And, if you are especially sensitive to smoke, it is important to find clean air to breathe.

Your Westside Water Board is continuing to implement a filtration strategy to filter the well water to below the Standard. We expect this to be accomplished by early July.

We expect to be using the well most of the summer.

Daily arsenic concentration are recorded at the following site: June 2013 Arsenic

(link:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/ccc?key=0AiZrvHtz8hFidDBOZVoyZkcwSHJDMVE2cGdSampYU1E#gid=0>

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If you have any questions, please feel free to call the system Manager, Doug Dolstad at 206-715-3805