

Thanksgiving Day Water issue at Westside Hwy & 151st

Sometime in the afternoon of Thanksgiving day a large truck declined to follow the driveway and ran over several large boulders protecting some water meters serving several residences on 151st. Must have caused the driver a significant “bump”. I got a message from a PSE “Systems” person late in the day informing me of a possible leak. Possible indeed! I was off island but had my stand by crew analyze the situation. Definitely something that needed prompt attention. We got to it on a rainy Friday and the leak was controlled about 10:45 with repairs effected and the area restored by 2pm.

Effects of the leak: First of all, we lost some 75,000 gallons of water from the standpipe reservoir (156th Station). This means we'll be using the Canyon well to make up the lost water until about Sunday.

2ndly, the high velocity and continuous nature of the leak stirred up the fine sediment that commonly coats the interior of water mains. Several of you in the vicinity of the leak called me to report yellowish water and this leak was almost certainly the cause. The water was almost completely clear by Saturday at midday.

Thank you to those of you who called — Richard Pruet, Bruce Fox, Dan Asher, Pat Call, John Stazcek. Your calls and emails help track the extent and duration of the incident. Also thanks to Doug Snyder for stopping by with words of encouragement and information about possible culprits (turns out there were several heavy trucks on 151st that day any of which could have been the ones that left the tire marks over the boulders and meter.

As always, feel free to call me if you notice anything unusual about our system or have questions/concerns. I'll do my best to respond in a timely manner. Sometimes I'm in a cell signal hole and don't get messages promptly. I'm changing cell carriers soon and hope that will help.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and all you Love. Doug Dolstad 206-715-3805

UPDATE Sept 30th.

The bacteriological sample that was taken was clean of any bacteria.

Doug

Update: Discolored Water on 119th

Tuesday, September 9th, 2014

Water appears to have mostly cleared around the 153rd area though there is still some discoloration lingering. Some discoloration was also reported around 10:30 pm last night near the intersection of SW 148th and Westside Hwy. I expect this discoloration to be working its way through toward Cedarhurst area by noon today diminishing in intensity as the sediment cloud moves along. Questions: 715-3805

Discolored Water Reported on 119th, September 8th

Monday, September 8th, 2014

Discolored water ranging from “tea brown” to having a light tinge was reported this evening. Doug got the first call around 7:15 pm. Several others in the area have also reported discolored water. It is likely this was related to work done on a Pressure Reducing Valve at the intersection of SW 148th and Westside Highway. A control line on that valve was leaking and though isolation valves were turned off up and downstream, water

continued to flow necessitating a “wet repair”. It is possible that when the valves were re-opened a short duration of higher than normal velocity flow occurred. High velocity flows tend to scour and put into the water stream any deposition that might have accumulated on the inside of the water main.

What you should do:

- 1) While it is very unlikely that the water is harmful, discolored water is not easy to feel comfortable drinking. Boiling any water you intend to drink will inactivate or destroy any biological pathogens. Or, you can purchase water until the water clears up.
- 2) You can help by reporting discolored water to the water manager, Doug Dolstad at 715-3805. Doing so will help him determine a pattern.

What we are doing:

Doug is monitoring the situation with the help of several residents who are affected and if the water is not clear by the morning he'll flush that section of the 8" main through the hydrant at 153rd and 119th. He'll also take a water sample to send to the lab to insure the water is free of bacteriological contaminants. He'll also update the information relative to this situation as information comes in and certainly when results of the water samples are known.

If you would like a personal call from Doug to update you on the situation, please let him know by emailing or calling him. email: contact@westsidewater.org phone: 206-715-3805

Reason for “Water Alert” sign July 2nd

Thursday, July 3rd, 2014

About the “Water Alert” sign that's been posted. Two things we'd like you to know:

- 1) For reasons not clear to us but that we're working on, iron has passed through the arsenic filter (normally, this iron would be filtered out) The iron has given the water from your tap a slight yellowish color. If you've noticed that color, that's what it is from
- 2) Because of the iron passing through the filter, we're presuming the filter hasn't filtered out the arsenic to the level that is expected. We've taken the filtration system off-line while we figure out what is happening with it. Meanwhile, because demand is exceeding supply, we've allowed the water from the well to go directly into the distribution system. A REMINDER this well water has about 34 parts per billion (ppb) arsenic. When combined with our other source water the estimated concentration will be about 20 – 25 ppb. The arsenic standard up until 2006 was 50 ppb. The standard put in place in 2006 reduced that level to 10 ppb. Except at very, very high doses, the deleterious health effects of arsenic are correlated with high levels (in parts per million, not billion) over a long period of time (decades). The Safe Drinking Water Act recognized this aspect of arsenic and allows for the 10 ppb standard to be exceeded by 25% , 25% of the time without any violation occurring. What that means for us is that if the water we drink has very low or no arsenic most of the year and the average of all water delivered to users has an arsenic concentration not greater than 25% (12.5 ppb) then our water falls within the standard.

What are we doing about this?

1) On July 3rd, our consulting engineer will be on site to help evaluate the filtration system and recommend next steps.

2) We're posting this notice with the intent to inform but not unduly alarm. If you are concerned about drinking the water we suggest you purchase bottled water until you hear otherwise from us.

3) We're asking you to help us reduce the water demand on our system by limiting your irrigation activities and immediately reporting any leaks you suspect. Conservation is a very important strategy in times like these. Thank you for your help and understanding.

As always, please feel free to call Doug if you have other concerns. He will definitely get back to you as soon as he's in cell range and doesn't otherwise have his finger in some leaking pipe somewhere.... 715-3805

Canyon Well Update, June 2014. Well in use, arsenic filter expected to be on line soon.

Wednesday, June 4th, 2014

This is an update on the use of the Canyon Well. It will address how the well has been used in April and May, how it is being used now and the status of the filtration system.

April and May use. We've found it necessary to use the Canyon Well all of the months of April & May. Until the end of May the amount of water from the well was blended with other source water and the resulting arsenic concentration was within the federal standard of 10 parts per billion. Lab results from samples taken in April and May came in at 8.4 ppb. Near the end of May the quantity needed has exceeded the amount that would stay within the standard. Lab results are pending but the estimated arsenic concentration of the water supplied to users is in the 15 – 20 ppb range. As lab results are known they will be posted.

Present Use: We are presently pumping about 21 gpm from the well. While the concentration of arsenic is presently exceeding the standard, the standard does allow for a 25% exceedance 25% of the time. That is the equivalent to a level of 12.5 ppb served continuously for 3 months. Westside does not expect to surpass that standard this year because.....

Filtration update: Our filter system has received field approval from our consulting engineer who has sent a "Construction Completion Report" to the WA State Dept of Health. This means we can (and will) start using the filter system. Given the results of the pilot testing, we expect to be able to use up to 30 gallons per minute from the well and having the finished water be

What's the patch in the road at the intersection of 115th & 156th?

Wednesday, June 4th, 2014

Ahhh, Holidays. A time for relaxing and celebrating.. and,.... responding to water leaks! This year on Mother's Day a major leak was reported coming up through the asphalt at the intersection of 115th and 156th. Turns out the leak was in the line supplying water from the Canyon Pump Station. This line is pretty old and has some connections that lead who knows where! The leak was in one of those side connections. This line is on our list to be replaced in the next few years.

Thanks to Michael Wagner and Jane Neubauer who notified us of this leak. Thanks also to Armin Wahanik from Water District 19 and Derrick Reed of Height Water who rummaged through their repair supplies to find

a fitting for this non standard sized line. And more thanks to other island contractors who supplied people and/or supplies. These include Kimmco, D&R, Zellerhof and Roggenbuck.

Recent Service Interruption affecting 115th & some of Cove Rd

Friday, April 11th, 2014

On April 10th service was interrupted for people living on 115th and some people on Cove Road. The reason for the interruption was to replace and repair several valves and a section of pipe that were discovered in poor or dysfunctional condition during excavations on April 9th. One of the valves had failed in a closed position and could not be opened and another was leaking badly. The effect of the valves in this condition was loss of precious water and, more pertinent to conditions immediately affecting users, erratic and sometimes no pressure in the upper pressure zone (115th and all of Cove Road). This work was done under an Emergency Repair permit from King County. It was not scheduled maintenance and we are sorry for the short notice and service interruption. We also appreciate the words of encouragement from systems users many of whom expressed appreciation for this being tended to. We realize that users become accustomed to reliable operating conditions but have been subject to erratic pressures over the last several weeks while the cause was being determined. That situation is now resolved. While this kind of statement tempts Fate to prove otherwise, we are very confident we found and fixed the problem. Other problems will have emerged to bedevil your Operator and vex system users in a similar way. This one is done.

WHAT WE DID: Users were notified by a sign posted at the intersection of 115th and Cove Road that there was to be a service interruption. Past experience has indicated that the most effective way of distributing information is to use the telephone answering machine at the Westside office that can be easily updated and make personal calls to notify especially those known to be particularly affected. Your system Manager/Operator was pleased to note that many calls did come in to the office from people seeking the information given on the phone. This information was updated throughout the day.

The intention was to have the water off between 10 am and 4 pm with the hope to have service returned as early as noon. Unfortunately it didn't turn out that way and full service wasn't restored until about 6 pm. What was the problem? The complex of piping and valves being removed dates back to around WWII. The steel pipe Westside has was tar wrapped and the 4" line we found had an outside dimension of 4". This is uncommon and contrasts with other steel pipe having an OD of between 4.25 and 4.5" Fittings to join new pipe to the old are harder to come by. Unfortunately, the contractor who arranged for parts a day earlier and went to pick up those parts early in the morning did not measure the parts given to them by the supplier. No other island water purveyor had the necessary parts either. This resulted in a several hour delay as the contractor diligently pursued parts and fittings from other area suppliers. Kudos to Mike Kimmel for the extra effort to track down and retrieve the correct parts and fittings. The system is now back to a normal operating condition with a steady pressure in the upper pressure zone.

What we'd do differently: While the sign and information on the answering machine worked well and many people were personally contacted, a posting on this web site would have been useful to at least the few people who have a habit of checking this site for information. As a test, I'd enjoy hearing from people who read this account. My email is: iwm.1@juno.com

Any other questions about this incident can be directed to your system Operator/Manager at iwm.1@juno.com or contact@westsidewater.org

Thank you for your patience and good will during this episode. We know having no water is inconvenient and try our best to limit such interruptions.

Post freeze request. Check your meter for leaks?

Sunday, February 9th, 2014

This last freeze has resulted in two known leaks in service lines connecting residences to the Westside Water main. If you notice a low pressure on your line, please take a moment to check your meter to see if the flow indicator is moving. The flow indicator is usually a small red triangle or a silver asterisk like wheel on the meter face. If it is and you know you aren't using water at your house, there is a high probability of a leak somewhere in your service line. The most common place would be where the pipe is exposed to the elements. Call Doug if you find something or need more guidance. Remember: if you find a leak and tend to it quickly, there is a "Leak Policy" that gives consideration for your immediate attention to the leak.

Well On, February 9th – Off on the 12th

Sunday, February 9th, 2014

The recent thaw has revealed itself with several broken service connections resulting in a reduced reservoir volume. Because of this I have brought on the "Canyon Well". A reminder: this well has around 30-35 ppb (parts per billion) arsenic. The Safe Drinking Water standard is 10 ppb. The well water is being blended with other source water and is expected to have an resulting arsenic concentration from between 18 and 25 ppb depending on how long the well is on. If you have questions or concerns, please do call Doug at 206-715-3805

UPDATE, FEB 12th, Well gpm has been reduced significantly. A major leak in a residence was found and the water flow stopped. We expect to shut off the well completely on the 13th.

Discolored Water in system Jan 23rd

Friday, January 24th, 2014

Discolored water has been reported in the distribution system from several people who live near where the main on 119th connects to Westside Hwy on an easement that would be 154th. The discolored water was first reported the evening of January 23rd and cleared up after about an hour of flushing. Another report came in later on the 23rd from a residence lower in elevation and cleared up in a similar time. Today, the 24th of January, a report came in from around 153rd and Westside Hwy of discolored water.

The likely cause of this discoloration is from fine deposition on the inside of the water main at or near the intersection between the main on 119th and the very old connecting transmission line on the easement (154th). This deposited material may have broken from its resting place and got mixed into the water column. It doesn't take much for the water to become quite discolored. Chlorine residuals have been monitored and show a available chlorine residual of 0.5 mg/l which is a normal residual in the system.

If you have concerns or noticed other characteristics in the water that seem unusual please call Doug and 206-715-3805.