

Westside Water Association Newsletter – July 2015 edition

Anderson Well update

The Anderson Well has operated smoothly since we turned it on in early May. It has consistently delivered the 22 gallons per minute that we expected.

Conservation

As is obvious to all of us, this summer is off to a hot, dry start. Further, the 90 day extended NOAA forecast is for a continuation of this pattern through September. So in spite of our additional capacity we all need to be conserving water as much as possible. Brown is better!! Let those lawns go this summer. Also we are looking at the highest fire danger for many years. Having to fight a major fire within our district would put a significant stress on our capacity and cause us to have to supplement with the Canyon Well pushing up arsenic levels. So extra care and vigilance is called for.

Leaks

We have had a leak of about 6 gallons per minute (gpm) in the lower (gravity portion) of our system for the past six months. It has not been easy to find and may in fact be several smaller leaks. We have devised some tests that should allow us to isolate the problem to one of four zones. As of early July we incurred a sudden and very large unaccounted for water loss (>20 gpm) in the upper portion of the system. The loss was traced, in part, to a broken garden hose fitting resulting in over 20,000 gallons over 3 days. Another leak, just fixed, at a fire hydrant near the intersection of 115th SW and SW 156th was estimated at about 6000 gallons per day. This was a slow leak that was made worse during diagnostic procedures. It hasn't been leaking at 6,000 for more than a couple of days. Another loss on the gravity side of the system and on the service side of a meter, is around 2,000 gpd. The owner has been contacted and corrective action has been taken. The message here is: **Leaks are very costly to the system.** During the hot weather many of us are using garden hoses and fittings that have seen little or no maintenance or using outdoor hose bibs that see infrequent use. Please check your garden hoses, outdoor faucets etc for leaks. Seals and hoses become brittle, fittings get cracked. A recent check of midday use on the upper system showed 25 people using water very slowly (suggestive of leak) during the middle of the day. Several of those situations were known irrigation uses. Please consider watering late in the day or early morning.

Q. How to check for leaks?

A. Turn off all the known water at your house and go look at your water meter. If the flow indicator is moving, that means water is moving through your meter. Shut the water off at your house. Check the meter. Shut off outdoor valves (if you have them) and check the meter again. Keep doing this until the leak is isolated to a particular zone on your property.

Arsenic Status

We made it through June staying within the 10 parts per billion (ppb) EPA standard. But as we start off July the system demand has increased and the Arsenic levels are now above the EPA standard. Please see the notice posted to the WWA website (www.westsidewater.org/news) by our system manager, Doug Dolstad, on July 4th, and also found on the reverse of this newsletter. Please note: Our association's web site contains articles, updates and publications such as this newsletter.

Canyon Well Filtration Update

Working with our consulting engineer we have defined a new filtration regimen and have installed the required media. We are now proceeding to a test phase to demonstrate that we can sustain low arsenic levels from the filtration system. The current system is designed to supply up to 30 gallons per minute. We will not be turning this system on until we have successfully completed the test phase.

Improving Communications

The WWA board requests to those who have not previously given us your email address to please do so now. We are examining how we can expand communication with the membership for general purposes as well as for cases of water emergencies. Your address will only be used for WWA business and will not be shared. The quickest way to get into our email data base is to send Westside Water an email message. Send to: contact@westsidewater.org Messages of encouragement are always welcome.

Westside Water Community News

The first "farm to home" CSA membership in the Westside area is being offered to Westside Water users. Liam Rockwell (son of WWA members) has started a market garden at Cedar Spring Farm - the farm below Bethel Park. Contact Liam at: cedarspringfarmfan@gmail.com for more details. According to Liam, there is a limit of 10 subscribers this year, but you can get on the list for updates of availability. This is a wonderful chance to participate in creating the next generation of young farmers right here in our West Side community.

The Westside Water Association Volunteer Board

Notice from the WWA website (www.westsidewater.org/news):

[Water Demand High, Canyon Well being used. Arsenic standard being exceeded](#)

July 4th, 2015

Westside Water was able to keep a June average arsenic concentration of 7 parts per billion (the Standard is 10.4 ppb) by blending water from the Canyon Well with other source waters – including the new Anderson Well, but the sustained hot weather has increased demand on the system by users beyond that level.

If this hot weather and demand continues, use of the Canyon Well is expected to be necessary above the level at which the standard can be met with arsenic levels predicted in the 15 – 18 ppb range. The arsenic standard allows for exceeding the 10.4 ppb concentration by 25%, 25% of the year (equivalent to a 3 month period) and Westside expects to meet the Standard for the year on an averaged basis.

Please see the [Department of Health publication](#) on the health effects of arsenic in drinking water:

(<http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/DrinkingWater/Contaminants/ArsenicinDrinkingWater>)

At this web site, see especially the link to publication 331-167-4 The emphasis regarding public health is on acute high levels and long term low-level exposure to arsenic.

What you can do:

1. Limit your water use as much as you (and your plants and animals) can tolerate. Be especially vigilant about leaks – open garden hoses and the like.
2. Purchase bottled water for drinking.

Questions? Call Doug at 715-3805
