

An Update from the Borough Manager on the Status of Borough Water

Yesterday the Borough was notified by ARS Aleut Analytical, our contracted water quality testing service, that a sample obtained during the Borough's monthly water quality check tested positive for e coli.

The Borough currently obtains water from two sources, Lily Lake and Piedad Springs. The water from Lily Lake is treated at our Water Treatment Facility while the water from Piedad Springs is treated with a chlorinating unit at the top of Piedad Road. Both of these sites feed into the Borough water system and it was the water from Piedad Springs that tested positive for e coli.

I want to assure all residents that the Borough takes this situation seriously and is aggressively pursuing solutions to address the problem. We have been asked several questions and this message is an attempt to answer some of them. More messages may follow to keep the public informed as we resolve this issue.

What actions did the Borough take after being notified of the positive test? In accordance with DEC requirements, and within minutes of notification, the Water Serer Team added more chlorine to the system. A quick emergency meeting was then held between the Borough Manager, Mr. Bradford, and Mr. Lemcke to develop a notification and response plan.

What did the notification and response plan consist of? The Borough immediately sent official notification to the Assembly, Local Media, and local environmental groups to increase awareness. The local radio station KHNS issued a public service announcement. Additionally, the Borough Manager posted the notification on the Borough web site and liked that notification to facebook to ensure that the message got out as quickly as possible. The Tourism Department also contacted local businesses and Mr. Lemcke called restaurants to ensure that they were notified as soon as possible. The Borough Manager also met with staff form the SEARHC Clinic to advise them of the situation so that they could evaluate patients with this information in mind. Finally, Borough employees began going door to door to hand official DEC sanctioned leaflets out to community residents advising them of the situation.

What are the next steps? This morning the Borough initiated additional sample collection and those samples will be sent to a testing lab in Juneau for analysis. This may provide verification of the presence of e coli in the system as early as the afternoon of Friday 26 June. There is also the possibility that the samples will be negative. The Department of Environmental

Conservation (DEC) will advise the Borough of our ability to lift the Boil Water Notice based on the results of the testing.

What if the testing shows that there is still e coli in the system? If this occurs, the borough will introduce more chlorine into the system and conduct a full purge. We will then re-test for the presence of e coli. If the testing demonstrates that only the Piedad source is affected we will shut that portion of the system off until such time as the water from that source is safe.

When will my water be safe to drink and cook with? We are uncertain and will advise the community when DEC makes that determination

We remain committed to providing the community with safe drinking water and we are taking all steps to address the problem. We remain in constant communication with DEC and are coordinating our efforts with the State to ensure the issue is resolved. Thank you for your patience and support as we work to ensure the public health of the community.

D.B. Sosa