

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

This notification builds on previous messages released and provides additional information

Situation: On 24 June Haines 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.

Initial Actions: 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.

Notification Process: 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 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. The Mayor and the Borough Manager met with local business owners and answered their questions throughout the day on 25 June 2015. Finally, the manager contacted the State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management to notify them of the situation in the event outside support is required.

Subsequent Actions: On the morning of 25 June Borough initiated additional sample (5 Samples) collection and those samples were sent to a testing lab in Juneau for analysis. This will 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. The Borough anticipates 3 potential outcomes from the analysis:

1. False Positive: If it is determined that the initial reading was a false positive in all likelihood DEC will permit resumption of normal service with the following conditions:
 - a. Additional testing and reporting to DEC
2. Localized Positive Result: If the results is determined to be localized to the Piedad area there are two sub-scenarios that DEC may direct
 - a. Isolate the Piedad Springs water source from the main water source. Super-chlorinate the water system. Cease-operations of those tanks fed directly by the Piedad Springs and purge those systems. The Borough anticipates that this would require 48 hours to complete.
 - b. Isolate the Piedad Springs water source from the main water source. Super-chlorinate the water system and purge the entire system. The Borough anticipates that this purge will require 96-120 Hours and that this may require support from other adjacent communities or from the state (see below for potential support requirements)
3. Systemic Positive Result: If there is a systemic positive result the course of action will likely be the same as in 2b: Super-chlorinate the water system and purge the entire system. The Borough anticipates that this purge will require 96-120 Hours and that this may require support from other adjacent communities or from the state (see below for potential support requirements)

Medical Concerns: As of 1630 on 25 June 2015 there were NO reported cases of symptoms consistent with e coli infection. A message from the Administrator of the Haines SEARHC Clinic to the Borough Manager of Haines Alaska reads as follows:

“as of Wednesday afternoon 6/25/2015, the Haines Health Center had not observed anyone in the clinic with discernible symptoms consistent with e-coli infection. The clinic is monitoring patients carefully for symptoms and advises that community members remain vigilant and follow guidance from the city and the public health department.”

Pending Actions (Next 24): The following actions have been identified for the next 24 Hours

- HELP Committee Meeting at 1000 on 26 June 2015 (Borough Conference Room)
- Determination of requirement to stand up Emergency Operation Center
- Issuance of Water Conservation Notice
- Continued notification and updates to local residents and businesses
- Development of a structured plan for a full system purge with branch plans for partial purge (Complete NLT 1500 26 June 2015)
- Determination of leave cancellation of essential Borough Personnel

Potential Support Requirements: A full system purge may result in reduced water pressure throughout the community and limitations on water availability tied to the rolling purge. There may be a requirement to obtain support from other communities and from the State. A initial determination will be made at the HELP Committee meeting and acted upon based on notification from the DEC after the latest sample results arrive (appx 1500 on 26 June 2015).

- Current Capability
 - Normal Water Use Levels: 250,000-270,000 gallons
 - Purification: The Borough has the capability to purify 400,000 Gallons of water per day
 - Storage Capability: 1.3 Million Gallons in 5 tanks
- Haines Borough may require assistance with the following:
 - Water Purification and Mobile Storage/Distribution: up to 72 Hours commencing Sunday 27 June 2015

D.B. Sosa