

November 4, 2016



# Hullcar Aquifer Inter-Ministry Working Group Updates

## Core Ministry Team Members:

### Director Lead:

Christa Zacharias-Homer  
Ministry of Environment  
Deputy Director, Regional  
Operations Branch

### Technical Team Lead:

Orlando Schmidt  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Regional Manager, Coast  
and Interior

## Goals of the Inter- Ministry Working Group:

- \* To ensure safe drinking water for the residents of Hullcar Aquifer and Steele Springs Water District
- \* To build public trust and demonstrate collaboration among Ministries
- \* To determine possible sources of nitrate in the Hullcar Aquifer
- \* To foster sustainable economic development for the local agrifood sector

## *Steele Springs Nitrate Sampling*

The Ministry of Environment received the preliminary results for the October 17 sample of SSDW overflow. This sample collection was coordinated with a similar sample taken by Brian Upper, Co-Chair, SSWB. The Ministry sent its sample to ALS Laboratory, and SSWB sent its sample to CARO Analytics. The Ministry's result is 10.8 mg/L, and Brian Upper, co-Chair advised the SSWB result is 9.6 mg/L. It is common that the results from the two laboratories will not be exactly the same; however, both the ministry and SSWB are asking for the respective laboratories to re-analyse the samples.

The Ministry also received the final results from the September 26 sampling and the result is 11 mg/L.

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## *Interior Health Authority Update*

Interior Health would like to remind those Hullcar area residents that received a Water Quality Advisory from Interior Health in July 2014 that the Water Quality Advisory remains in effect until further notice. Residents on the Steele Springs Waterworks District water system and residents drawing water from the Hullcar 103 Aquifer are reminded to review the information in the Water Quality Advisory.

[https://www.interiorhealth.ca/YourEnvironment/DrinkingWater/Documents/Hullcar Area WQA Notific Dr Corneil-Jul14-2014.pdf](https://www.interiorhealth.ca/YourEnvironment/DrinkingWater/Documents/Hullcar%20Area%20WQA%20Notific%20Dr%20Corneil-Jul14-2014.pdf)

Information on Groundwater Protection for Well Owners can be found at:

[http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/air-land-water/water/water-wells/gwpr\\_info\\_for\\_well\\_owners\\_brochure.pdf](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/air-land-water/water/water-wells/gwpr_info_for_well_owners_brochure.pdf)

## Integrated Monitoring Study

The Integrated Monitoring Study –Phase II includes conducting groundwater sampling and deep soil sampling. The locations for drilling the monitoring well and the deep soil boreholes were informed by the Phase I assessment. The Inter-Ministry Working Group is currently obtaining landowner approval to enter the respective properties to conduct the sampling work. Golder Associates is the contractor that will undertake this work and it is expected to be completed by mid-November.



### Post-Harvest Nitrate Study

The Post-Harvest Nitrate Study is being conducted by staff with the Ministry of Agriculture. So far, soil test results have been received for 27 of the 40 fields sampled. The soil sampling for the Post-Harvest Soil Testing phase is expected to be complete the first week of November. Benchmark soil sampling for the first of four time periods has been completed. A progress report is due to be released December 1.

### A Good Read...

#### Tracking Nitrogen Through the Soil to Reduce Pollution From Agriculture

Scientists are uncovering how nitrogen migrates underground with the help of sensors that continuously measure nitrate concentration and water flow.

By [Susan Moran](#) | Friday, June 21, 2013

<http://discovermagazine.com/2013/julyaug/11-how-nitrogen-can-help-food-production-but-harm-drinking-water>

### Upcoming dates of interest:

Nov/Dec	Environmental Impact Assessments due for three area farms	November 28	Inter-Ministry Working Group Meeting
December 1	Post-Harvest Nitrate Study Update	January (TBD)	Public Meeting (details to come)

More info can be found at:

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/site-permitting-compliance/hullcar-aquifer>



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