

Hullcar Aquifer Inter-Ministry Working Group Update of Key Activities and Actions

Ministry of Environment Sample of the Steele Springs Drinking Water Overflow

The Ministry of Environment June 22, 2016 Nitrate sample from Steele Springs drinking water overflow was 11.5mg/L.

Starting with the June 22 sample, the Ministry of Environment increased the number of sampling parameters for the Steele Springs drinking water overflow. The additional parameters will provide beneficial information to the integrated monitoring study. Due to the increase in parameters, it is taking the lab additional time to process the results. Ministry staff collected the July 20 sample and it is expected that the results for the July sample will be received late August. Sample results will continue to be shared with Steele Springs Water Board, the inter-ministry working group members and posted to the Ministry of Environment Hullcar Aquifer webpage.

Action Plan Activity 3: Review of *Environmental Management Act, Drinking Water Protection Act, Health Act* instruments to encourage collective action for improvement of water quality.

Pollution Prevention/Abatement Orders

Ministry of Environment, Regional Operations Branch Compliance staff inspected five agricultural operators during the week of July 12 to verify compliance with their Pollution Abatement Orders. Inspection Records, once completed, will be provided to the agricultural operators for comment. Once the agriculture operators have had an opportunity to comment, the inspection records will be posted to the Ministry of Environment Hullcar Aquifer web page located at:

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

Action Plan Activity 6: Develop an integrated cross ministry monitoring plan including identification of sampling points, by whom, schedule of samples, etc.

Integrated Monitoring Study

The request for proposal (RFP) for the Integrated Monitoring Study closed on June 28 and nine proposals were received. The Monitoring Sub- Group evaluated the proposals and is finalizing selection of the successful bidder. Phase I report is expected at end of September 2016 and the Phase II report is expected at the end of February 2017.

Other Information

Information and Privacy Commissioner Investigative Report: Clearly in the Public Interest: The Disclosure of Information Related to Water Quality in Spallumcheen was released on June 29, 2016. Per the results of the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner investigation, the Ministry of Environment has posted the H.S. Jansen and Sons Farm Ltd. and the Doug Regehr nutrient management plans and supporting analysis to the Ministry of Environment Hullcar Aquifer water quality web page. This information was a requirement of the 2014 Inspection Order issued to H.S. Jansen and Sons Farm Ltd., and the 2014 Information Order issued to Doug Regehr.

As environmental information is submitted as per the requirements of the Information, Abatement and Prevention orders, it will be posted to the Ministry of Environment web page.

Draft Ministerial Order for a Hullcar Valley Area Based Management Plan

A conference call was held on Tuesday July 5 with the following interested parties to review a draft Ministerial Order and draft terms of reference for a Hullcar Valley Area Based Management Plan. The purpose of the proposed plan is to identify and implement solutions to reverse the increasing trend of nitrate to ensure the ongoing health of Aquifers 102, 103, Deep Creek and Steele Springs. The draft document identifies participation can either be by being named a party to develop the plan, or to be consulted on the plan. The draft terms of reference identifies key information to be included in the plan.