

September 23, 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 August 16, 2016 Nitrate sample from Steele Springs drinking water overflow was 10.9 mg/L. This is down from the July 20, 2016 Nitrate sample which was 11.3mg/L. The next sample date is September 26, 2016.





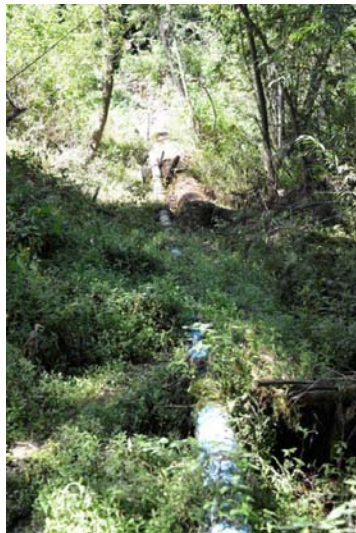
Integrated Monitoring Study

Golder & Associates is currently undertaking Phase I of the study which is a desktop assessment. They are awaiting the laboratory results from the samples taken during the Ambient Hydrogeological Network and Surface Water sampling before they can finalize the Phase I report. In the interim, Golder is making plans to undertake deep soil samples as identified in the Phase II work plan.

Hullcar Valley Area Based Management Plan

Comments received up to August 14 from interested parties on the draft Ministerial Order and draft terms of reference for a Hullcar Valley Area Based Management Plan were compiled and a summary was prepared for the Minister of Environment's consideration. The Minister has deferred her decision to order development of an area based management plan until the environmental studies being undertaken in Hullcar Valley have been completed. On completion of the environmental studies, there will be greater certainty on the possible source(s) of pollution to the aquifer and actions to reduce effects of pollution which may inform development of the area based management plan.

"The ongoing environmental studies will provide greater certainty regarding the sources of pollution to the aquifer."



Interior Health Authority Update

Interior Health continues to work with the Steele Springs waterworks district to explore options for improvements to the water system (source, treatment, and distribution system) and to look for ways to support the waterworks district in doing so. Additionally, IH continues to monitor sampling results from the Steele Springs overflow to ensure that the existing messaging regarding the health impacts of nitrates in the drinking water is accurate and up-to-date.

Technical Communications Working Group

At Kukpi7 Christians' request, a government to government working group has been established to provide the opportunity for the Splatshin First Nation and representatives from the Inter-Ministry Working Group to engage through discussion and information sharing to support the



mutual goal of resolving the Hullcar Aquifer water quality issue of high nitrates. The first Technical Communications Working Group meeting occurred on Wednesday, September 14. Discussion included review of the Letter of intent for the working group, each entity providing an overview of their respective work plans, an overview of the Orders issued to agricultural operators and an overview of the integrated monitoring study. The next meeting is scheduled for first week of November.



Upcoming dates of interest:

- | | |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------|
| September 26 | Next nitrate sample of Steele Springs overflow |
| November 2 | Technical Communications Working Group Meeting |

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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