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Agenda Item #7
REPORT #RWSC 2008-16

**REPORT TO REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2008**

SUBJECT ASBESTOS SAMPLING RESULTS FOR GREATER VICTORIA'S DRINKING WATER

PURPOSE

To provide information on the results of recent samples collected from the Greater Victoria Drinking Water System for asbestos fiber analysis.

REPORT

Recently, a concern was raised about the potential for asbestos to be present in drinking water provided by the Greater Victoria Drinking Water System. To allay this concern, the Water Quality Division collected a number of samples from the drinking water system and sent them to a laboratory in Seattle to be analyzed in accordance with US EPA approved protocols. The locations selected included control samples from the source water and plastic pipe along with test samples from asbestos-cement (AC) transmission and distribution system pipe and the Flowline.

No asbestos fibers were detected in any of the samples submitted. The results of those analyses are provided below.

Sampling Location	Type	Purpose	Results
Sooke Reservoir Intake	Control	Baseline data (source water)	Not detected*
JG Plant @ 1 st customer	Control	Treated water at entry to distribution system	Not detected
Pelican Drive Pumphouse	Control	Contribution from PVC plastic dist. system pipe	Not detected
Glenforest Pumphouse	Test	Contribution from 5 km of 18" AC No. 8 transmission pipe	Not detected
Tynall at El Sereno in Saanich	Test	Contribution from 10" AC dist. System pipe (1965)	Not detected
Charters Plant raw water	Test	Contribution from 18 km of Flowline	Not detected

* Not detected = Less than 0.11 million fibers per litre that are greater than 10 microns in length

Health Canada and the World Health Organization (WHO) do not list a limit on asbestos fibers in drinking water. The US EPA limit on asbestos fibers in drinking water is 7 million fibers per litre greater than 10 microns in length.

Health Canada and WHO advise that asbestos only poses a health risk when the fibers are in the air that people breathe. Workers with prolonged exposure may develop severely impaired lung function (asbestosis) and cancers of the lung and lung cavity.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications from this report.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Regional Water Supply Commission receive the staff report for information.

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